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The National Stenographer

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THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER.

VOLUME V.

CHICAGO, 1894.

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THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER.

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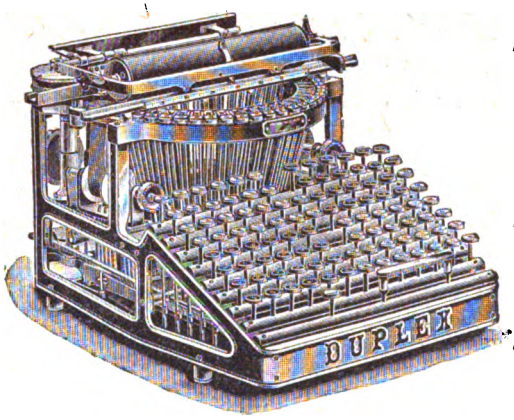

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THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER

VOL. V. JANUARY, 1894. No. 1.

THE METROPOLITAN BUSINESS COLLEGE.

THE institution which we are about to describe is one of the largest and most flourishing of its kind in the country, and it will, no doubt, interest those of our readers who never attended a Business College, as well as students who are now attending such a school, to learn of its growth, success and present work. It was started some twenty years ago by Mr. O. M. Powers, who is still the proprietor. When

POWERS' BUILDING.

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scarcely more than a boy, he foresaw the demand for business education but hardly dreamed of such a demand reaching its present proportions. After obtaining a good knowledge of commercial branches and becoming a skillful penman, he decided to start a business school in Chicago. He accordingly secured a small room on State street, and commenced with one student. It would be interesting, did space permit, to follow the school as the number of students grew to five, ten, fifteen, twenty and on up to 100. An assistant was secured, then another and another, from time to time, as the quarters were enlarged and the attendance grew. It was a long time before shorthand was thought of as a branch necessary to be taught, and we are told that only about ten years ago the class in shorthand numbered five or six, and the typewriters consisted of two No. 4 Remingtons. In ten years this department has grown so large that five teachers are employed, 100 machines are in almost constant use during school hours and the number of students in attendance at one time is nearly or quite 300. The school is located on the corner of Michigan avenue and Monroe street, in the Powers building, a beautiful seven story structure, and it is safe to say that no school in the country has a better location or finer quarters.

The shorthand department occupies one entire floor with the exception of the office of the College. There are two large study rooms, two class rooms and two typewriter rooms. All but one room has outside light, and as there is an unobstructed view of Lake Michigan from the main room, the students of this school are fortunate in having pleasant surroundings in every way. So much for the history and location. We now propose to treat briefly of the work of the different rooms of the shorthand department as a result of personal observation and the help of the various teachers. The shorthand work may be properly classed in three divisions although this is more a matter of convenience than anything else. In the first division the student is taught all the principles of shorthand and in fact is prepared for the dictation class; in the second division a certain amount of dictation is given and in the third the advanced or finishing dictation. Personal or direct instruction is given in typewriting while the student is in the first division. After that the matter dictated is transcribed and submitted to the teachers for criticism and correction. With the help of the teachers we will now take up the work of the different departments which, for the want of better terms, have been classified as "Preparatory," "Intermediate," and "Advanced."

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COLLEGE OFFICE.

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Preparatory Department.

The instruction in this department is based upon the fact that there are two kinds of knowledge. First, that a principle may be thoroughly known by a student and yet he may require time for its application. With this degree of knowledge he would possess accuracy without speed. Second, a principle may be so thoroughly known that it requires but little effort of the mind to use it. This is accuracy with speed. It is this second degree of knowledge that the teachers aim to impart, but yet at all times it is quality, not quantity, thoroughness and accuracy which are insisted upon. A high standard is required as the best means of obtaining results satisfactory to both teachers and students. The work is conducted upon business principles and the pupils are required to apply themselves as diligently as though employed in an office. Many of the exercises are written by some of the students at the rate of 150 words per minute or in a few cases even a higher rate before leaving, although no definite rate is required on such exercises, the only requirment being that the student shall understand perfectly the principles of one lesson or grade before advancing to another, and that accomplished, it is known that speed will follow in due time.

The theoretical work is divided into twenty lessons of five grades, making four lessons to each grade, or classes working just four lessons apart. It should not be understood, however, that a lesson means the work of one day for a class is required to master the work of one grade before advancing. Neither does this prevent each individual from advancing as rapidly as possible, for the entire department is so well graded that there is always a class exactly suited to the ability and advancement of each student. Therefore it does not follow that of a given number of students starting at the same time all will finish together, but each will go as rapidly or as slowly as his work will justify. It will thus be seen that the students of this department have all the advantages of individual instruction with those of class work added. For it must be conceded that there are advantages in both class and individual work. In the former every student gets the benefit of all questions, answers and explanations brought out in the class and in the latter a student is neither crowded nor kept back to his disadvantage. To get the fullest benefit of individual instruction, one of the teachers is always to be found at the desk in the large study room, but so well graded is the school and so fully are explanations given in the class room that comparatively few questions are asked at the desk. When a new lesson or a new principle is to be

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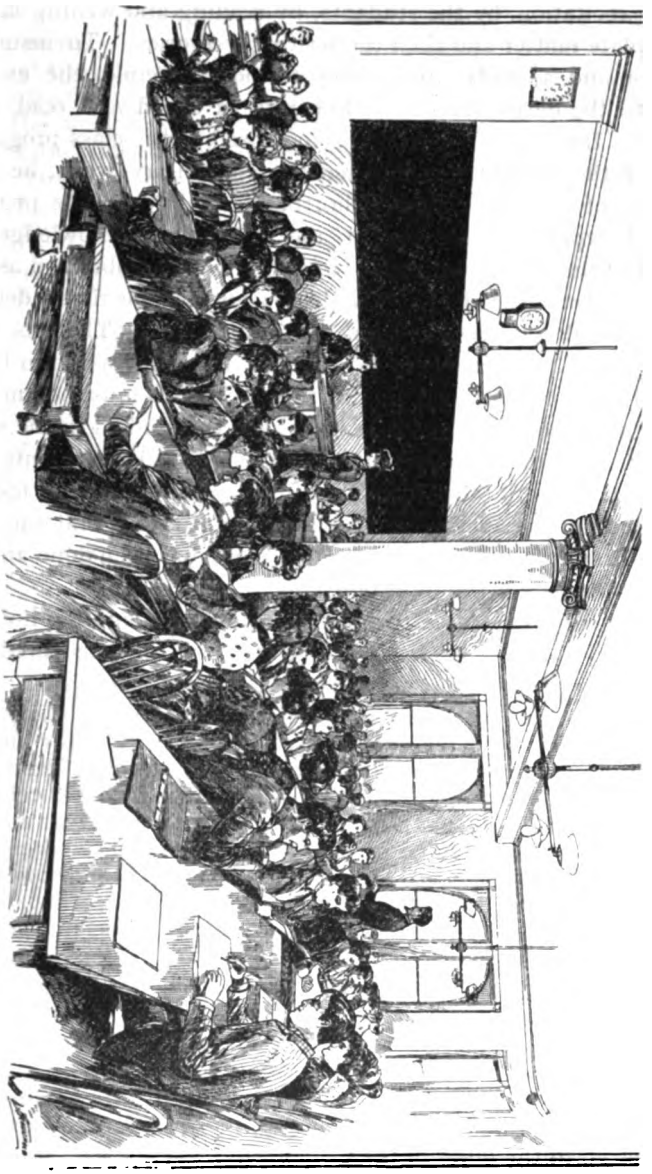

PREPARATORY DEPARTMENT.

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taken up, it is fully explained by the teacher and is then prepared for the following recitation, by the students, by reading and writing many times, first the plate matter and then the writing exercises. To insure a quick conception and a ready application of each principle, the exercises are dictated to the entire class at a slow rate of speed and read back from their notes, the rate of speed being increased as the class progresses.

When the student has finished the elementary work, he has a good knowledge of every principle of shorthand. Not only the principles but the speed expedients are taught and a thorough knowledge of several thousand of the more frequently recurring words is obtained as the result of miscellaneous class drill. This leaves nothing for the student but constant, watchful and persistent practice in dictation. There is no particular degree of proficiency to be reached, however, while in this department. The work outlined in the twenty lessons must be finished but it need not stop there, and the rule is to keep the student in the department until lack of room compels the most advanced class to enter the next department. But it should not be inferred that staying a few weeks or days more than the average in this department means that much longer in school. It simply means that so much more has been done and so much less to accomplish in the next department.

Movement also receives proper attention here, and the holding of the pen or pencil and note book are all matters that are considered of enough importance to receive their share of the teacher's time.

Spelling is part of the work of this department. Each student is examined in spelling when entering school and once every month thereafter until entering the next department. If the grade of a student is less than 90 per cent. he is required to study spelling; if 90 per cent. or above, he is excused until the next monthly examination. If at any examination the grade is less than 90 per cent. the study must be taken up. From forty to fifty words comprise each day's lesson. These words are taken from a text book and from lists prepared by the teacher. The same record is kept and the same reports made of the work in spelling as in shorthand.

Strict but not harsh discipline is maintained at all times. A regular attendance is required and at the daily roll-call all absences are noted. Notices are then sent to parent or guardian and the student is required to bring a satisfactory excuse before resuming work.

Punctuality is insisted upon. The doors to the class rooms are locked at a certain hour each morning and any student coming after that time must go to the office of the College and get an excuse before being admitted. These excuses are filed and help to make up the record of the pupil at the end of the month.

The teachers of this department, or of all the departments in fact,

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believe in reading the shorthand publications and thus securing that interchange of thought and experience that cannot be had in any other way. They do not stop with subscribing but urge their students to do so, believing that they as well as teachers may be benefited by such reading. We have by no means exhausted the details which might be of interest concerning the workings of the Preparatory department, but we believe that teachers and students of other schools will find what has been said, not only interesting, but instructive and valuable. Much as to discipline, attendance, etc., will apply with equal force to the other departments, and need not be repeated. Therefore, the others will receive briefer mention.

RECITATION ROOM.

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TYPEWRITING.

No more forcible example could be given of the rapidity with which the typewriter has taken the place of the pen than the statement made at the beginning of this article in regard to the number of typewriters in use at the Metropolitan Business College a few years ago and at the present time. It is but a little while since the first No. 4 Remington was placed in the school, and then it was no doubt a question as to the propriety of the innovation; but to-day 100 machines kept in first-class order are not more than sufficient for the demands made upon their use.

Neither is it considered sufficient that the machines are there and that the students practice upon them so much time each day. Regular, systematic work is carried on under the direction of a teacher whose whole time is devoted to that work. In the Preparatory department, in a separate room, there are about fifty machines which are kept in constant use during school hours. A brief outline of the methods of instruction is about as follows: The key-board is divided into two parts and three fingers of each hand are used. The little finger of the left hand is kept on the "Upper case key" and always used in capitalizing. The thumb of the right hand is used on the space bar. The alphabet is learned by fingering. When it is thoroughly mastered so as to count forward and backward and to skip around the student writes "by touch."

After this preliminary work has been done, short words are taken up in the following manner: Fifty words (five lines of ten words each), each word beginning with the same letter of the alphabet, are written until mastered. Every letter is handled in this way until the entire twenty-six are gone over. The student has then acquired the ability to write rapidly 1,300 words. Fifty short sentences are then systematically practiced. This fits the student for taking dictation slowly but accurately. Dictation is commenced by taking a short article and repeating it until it can be written at the rate of about twenty-five or twenty-six words per minute. Until the above standard is reached the student is not allowed to proceed to more advanced work, but as soon as ready fifty short letters and twelve miscellaneous forms are given. After all this has been done in a satisfactory manner, the student is able to take direct dictation rapidly and accurately and such work forms part of the daily routine until the next department is entered. The classes are divided into grades as in the shorthand work but each individual is carefully looked after and given more or less of certain exercises as the case may be. The student leaves this room with a practical mastery of the machine in every detail and

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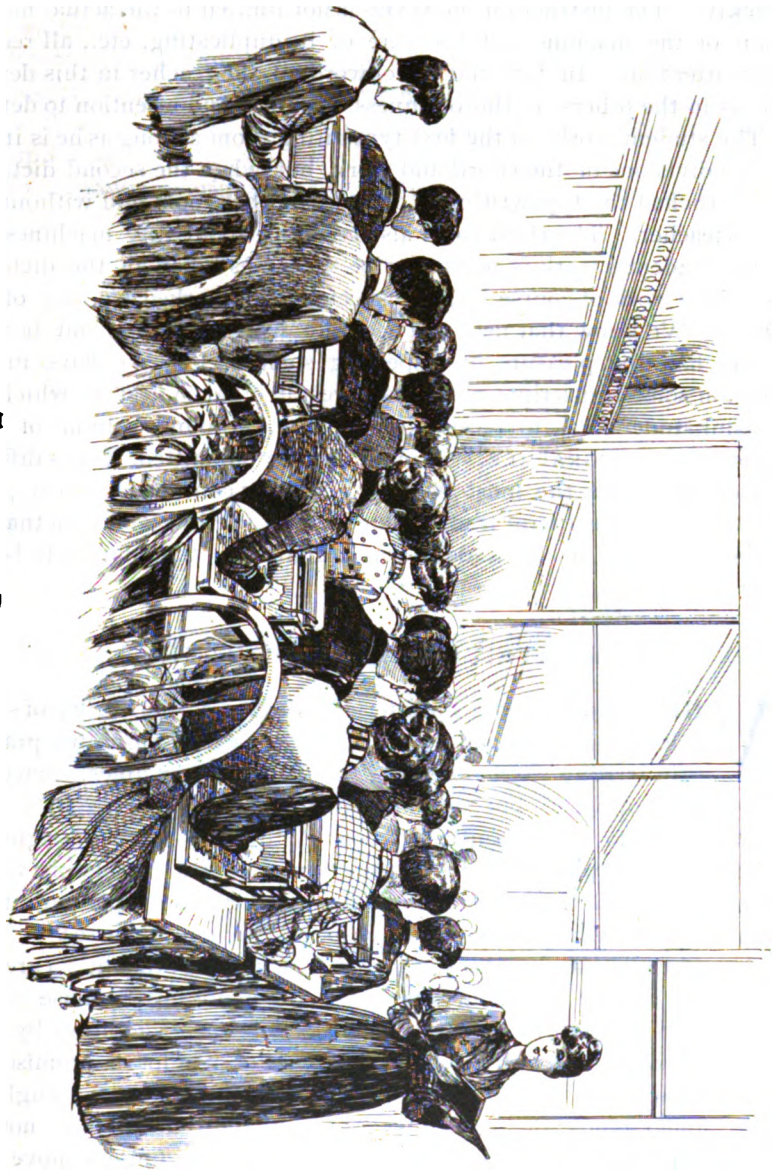

TYPEWRITING DEPARTMENT.

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thereafter is expected to turn out neat and accurate transcripts and to do it quickly. The instruction, however, is not limited to the actual manipulation of the machine but the care of it, duplicating, etc., all receive proper attention. In fact the watchword of the teacher in this department, as in the others, is thoroughness, accuracy and attention to details.

The student works in the first typwriting room as long as he is in the first two divisions of the shorthand work, but when the second dictation class is reached the typewriting is done in another room and without the aid of a teacher. The third room also contains about fifty machines and here the student's work is to transcribe the notes taken in the dictation class. The work of course is all inspected and marked by one of the teachers. We know that neat and accurate work is turned out because we have had the pleasure of inspecting some of it. We have in our possession some transcripts made as a result of a contest in which the successful student was to receive, as a prize, a bound volume of THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER. From a number submitted, it was difficult to decide which was the most worthy, but, after considering every phase of the work, such as literal transcribing, correct spelling and punctuation, neatness, etc., Mr. W. A. Raddon was declared by the judges, to be the winner.

THE INTERMEDIATE DEPARTMENT.

WHEN students enter the intermediate classes, the theory of shorthand has been mastered. They have had unlimited practice in writing words covering the different principles, sometimes at a high rate of speed, but have had no dictation.

The work to be accomplished now is to learn the word-signs and their derivations, phrasing, to become familiar with conflicting words, start dictation, and attain a speed of about sixty words per minute on new matter, after which they are ready for the advanced classes.

One of the most important points in a shorthand student's career is the starting in dictation, and where a great many fail because of not being started properly. *Students should be led up to* dictation by easy stages, and not rushed into it precipitantly. For if a lot of promiscuous matter is hurled at him indiscriminately, no matter how thoroughly a student understands the principles of shorthand, his mind is not yet trained to picture rapidly the characters, nor can his fingers move with sufficient rapidity to write accurately those characters which *are* pictured in his mind. It is quite one thing to write single words rapidly under

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the same principle, but it is no easy task when it comes to making a quick change from one principle to another, as is necessary when writing ordinary matter.

Many students think that when the theory of shorthand is learned they ought to be able to write anything, and their inability to do so brings them to a very discouraging point, and where they are apt to give up the study entirely.

By a gradual working up to dictation is meant: taking a short sen-

DICTATION ROOM.

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tence and bringing in one or two of the word-signs, and writing the sentence until it becomes familiar, but not tiresome, then a new sentence, until the word-signs are all worked in as well as the conflicting words. The stenotyes of word signs are also gone over orally.

In connection with this sentence work, after a week or so, a short miscellaneous article is written on the board—the students copy and study out the outlines—it is then read, and each word and phrase gone over thoroughly. It is impressed on the student the necessity of never allowing a word or phrase to pass without a thorough and well-defined knowledge of the various principles in its make-up. Speed is never attempted until the matter is intelligently understood; after that it is written for speed.

From time to time new articles are taken up which contain a specific line of phrasing, so that a student may become perfectly familiar with the circle, hook, double length, half length and tick phrases. On this repeated matter, a student after a short time finds himself writing at a rate of speed which a few weeks before seemed utterly impossible. A rapid movement is gained by taking a phrase which contains three, four or even more words, and speeding on that a minute. Students will write the phrase and make good outlines at the rate of two hundred and fifty words per minute.

A vocabularly of shorthand outlines at one's pencil-end is a necessity to rapid writers, and with that in view every new word which occurs in dictation and a few extra technical words are written every day until they become familiar.

About this time dictation becomes easier and the students are given a certain number of letters each day to be written on the typewriter. This typewritten work is then brought into the class-room and the spelling and punctuation talked over. This work must be gotten out individually and be absolutely correct before it is approved.

THE ADVANCED DEPARTMENT.

STUDENTS enter the advanced department after having finished the theoretical work and made a start in dictation.

In the lower class of this department short business letters form the bulk of the dictation exercises. The shorthand forms are thoroughly discussed in class and practiced over for speed. The typewritten copies of these letters are inspected by the teacher, and the spelling,

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punctuation, syntax, composition and definitions explained. Letters must be rewritten until perfect; then they are signed by the teacher, and copied into press copy books, with which each pupil is provided. In the course of a month the pupils are able to take down an ordinary business letter in good shorthand at about 90 words a minute, and transcribe neatly and accurately on the typewriter, besides press copying, indexing and filing. Speed is not an object in this class, but accuracy, combined with promptness and neatness.

In the upper class the shorthand work is of a more general, as well as more difficult, character; it being intended that the student shall progress constantly both in manual dexterity, and in the difficulty of the matter he can intelligently handle. If the student has been thorough in his previous work, he now thinks of the shorthand forms and writes them upon paper with very little effort. It is, therefore, impressed upon his mind that, without becoming careless in his shorthand work, he must pay more attention to the dictator and follow closely the meaning of every word. In this way it is intended to turn out intelligent stenographers, who will make sensible, if not verbatim, transcripts. The more complex phrases and contracted forms are introduced as fast as it is seen that the students can handle them intelligently and safely. Special attention is given to legal work and the higher branches of shorthand work. The dictation hours are divided between old matter and new; the old being practiced for speed, and the new for reading exercises. During the reading exercises hints are given on reading "shattered" and other difficult outlines, and everything that will be of interest and value to the class as stenographers brought to their attention. It is not claimed that when students leave this school they are finished stenographers, but they are well on the road, and have sufficient speed and accuracy to fill the ordinary commercial position.

The typewriting of the upper class includes all that is required in actual practice. The business letters are more lengthy and technical. Legal work of all kinds, specifications, tabular work, speeches, scientific papers and miscellaneous matter are written. Manifolding, mimeographing and kindred subjects are introduced, each student doing the work with his own hands.

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D. FULLMER.

On July 13, 1865, on a farm in Dodge Co., Wis., there was born to a sower of seed a son, whom the proud parents named Devier Fullmer.

What grander occupation is open to man than the sowing of vigorous seed and the bestowing of watchful care as it germinates and grows upward, ever upward, until it bursts and yields its golden fruit. The wise sower will always select the best seed and will be unceasing in his devotion to its care and the garnering of its fruit. Such a sower gazes with thoughtful meditation, intermixed with glorifying enthusiasm, upon each stage of his work—he thoughtfully plants the seed; he carefully protects it from hurtful influences in its growth; he surrounds it with saving environments in its garnering.

What else could be expected than that this son and heir of the thoughtful sower, and careful protector and safe harborer, should start on the journey of life endowed with like qualities.

Each life when left to itself will follow a positive and unerring route to the City of the Dead. Thus it is that few sons continue in the vocation of the father; not that the last vocation is full of good opportunities, but that there is intermixed with the liking for the same field a desire to apply the principles, thus practically demonstrated to be truthful to other fields.

And thus it was that young Fullmer wended his way to a nearer view of commercial life—after having passed with high commendations through all the studies of the public schools and the classical high school course.

During his attendance at high school there was being conducted an incidental course in Benn Pitman shorthand, and this young Fullmer entered, for his mind was athirst for knowledge. He was unable to acquire any proficiency at this time as the course was cut short by the removal of his parents to Western Ontario.

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Early in life he conceived the idea that it was hardly possible that a young man could know too much, and no opportunity for knowledge was presented of which he did not take advantage. In following out this idea, he was ever to be found in the company of those far superior to those of his age, rather than on the playground.

About eighteen miles distant from his then home, on the banks of the historic Thames, in the town of Chatham, was a business college in which shorthand was taught. So enthused had he become in the study of the art in the high school, that the knowledge that he could here continue in his study made him ill at ease, until, at last, filled with a strong determination to master the art, he entered the class in that college. So painstaking and earnest was he, that he soon was at the head of his class, and far outstripped it or any previous class that college had ever taught. He graduated, and, three months from that time, was engaged as principal of the shorthand department, whose diploma he had.

Here did he first evidence his inherited ability for thoughtful sowing of seed. He had long been aware that the methods pursued were not those which insure success. Therefore, upon his installation, he set about a radical change in every phase of teaching, with the result that, within nine months, the attendance in his department was quadrupled.

During his nine month's instruction he got a glimpse of shorthand possibilities. He saw, with unerring precision, that to make a success in his chosen sphere, he needed still further preparation. In order to obtain this, he resigned his position, and attended the well known school, conducted by W. G. Chaffee, in Oswego, N. Y.

His special adaptation to the art was here so soon made manifest that when a request was made to Mr. Chaffee for some one to take charge of the shorthand department of the Omaha Business College, of Omaha, Mr. Fullmer was at once selected and went to this new field. Here, again, his unerring instinct in the sowing of seed caused him to institute entirely new methods of instruction with pronounced success.

He still pursued his researches in the science, and by continuous reading of all the periodicals on the subject, he became thoroughly filled with a complete reporting knowledge. In addition to his continuous studies, he sought the acquaintance, either personally or by correspondence, of the prominent reporters of the country; and, not only sought their acquaintance, but drew from them much inspiration and knowledge in the higher branches. Among them were Fred Irland, one of the reporters in the house of representatives, and Charles H. McGurrin, official reporter of Kalamazoo, Mich. He also became acquainted with all

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the official reporters in Omaha, among them he found one, Mr. Hopkins, in whose society he was much to be found and from whom he gained much useful information.

At this time he was teaching Standard Phonography and had considerable correspondence with Andrew J. Graham its author, from whom he received many valuable suggestions, both in the teaching, and practice of the art.

As Mr. Fullmer's knowledge broadened he began to have a grander conception of the art. He saw that it was not only absolutely necessary that shorthand should be theoretically progressive, but that every theory must submit, without defeat, to a practical demonstration. This forced him to a departure from the methods of instruction in the text-book he was then using. Taking, as a basis, that book and applying to it all the valuable expedients, phrasing principles and methods of instruction, which he had gained by the correspondence and acquaintances above referred to, he proceeded with a course of instructions which brought the students positively, step by step with unerring precision, from the first principle to the culmination of the study, without a pause or the retracing of a step. As a necessary result, the students who were fortunate enough to be instructed by him entered upon the fields of their labor equipped in a manner theretofore unknown in that city. As an incidental result, the school grew to magnificent proportions.

His services were now in great demand and tempting salaries came from various points, one of which, from the Metropolitan Business College of Chicago, he accepted.

In this school his special qualifications for the instruction of students in shorthand have put him in charge of the department. So thorough, yet minute and comprehensive, is his instruction that, when a student leaves his classes, they require but a reasonable time in miscellaneous dictation.

Yet Mr. Fullmer is not satisfied with his success. He is still striving for better methods and greater knowledge in the art and science; for he believes there is still much to learn in it—that there must be continual progress or else retrogression; that there cannot be any such thing as standing still in either teaching or practicing shorthand.

Since coming to Chicago, Mr. Fullmer has made the personal acquaintance of Mr. Isaac S. Dement, in whose companionship he is often to be found and in whose methods of instruction and reporting he has found much that has met with his approval. As to this relationship, Mr. Fullmer says: "I am indebted to Mr. Dement more than to any

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other man for the very best part of my knowledge of shorthand, and to a great extent to what success I am having in my work. He has taken special interest in my progress, and, detailing to me the many causes which have resulted in his wonderful achievements, has enabled me to avoid many experimental methods I otherwise might have been forced to adopt."

So diversified is Mr. Fullmer's knowledge of shorthand that he was enabled to leave the teaching of the Hand-Book at Omaha, and take charge of the classes in Munson's Complete Phonographer at the Metropolitan Business College, without confusion. This same diversity of knowledge enables him, in order to produce the most successful students, to apply to the Munson system the best results of the best thoughts of the most experienced reporters and teachers of the country.

MARY R. FAUST

Mrs. Mary R. Faust was born in Atglen, Chester County, Pa. Here she received her early education both in public and private schools, but later attended a young ladies' seminary of the east when she finished her education with honors. Her first teaching was in the public school of her native town, where for five years she was a very successful teacher and resigned only to accept an offer as governess in a prominent and influential family near Wilmington, Del., whose daughter she fitted for entering College and State Normal School. In all literary and musical circles she was well-known and took an active part in all their organizations. Again she was urged to accept a position in the public schools, which she did with her former success. During the winter of '87 and '88 she took up the study of shorthand and typewriting in Jacksonville, Ill., under the instruction of her cousin, Mrs. L. A. Davis, teacher of these branches in the Jacksonville Business College, where she finished the course, and in June, 1888, took charge of this branch of work in the Peoria Business College, under the management of Prof. G. W. Brown, where she taught for two

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years. In the summer of 1890 she was married to Mr. C. A. Faust, a teacher in Brown's Decatur Business College, and in the fall of the same year she and her husband went as teachers to the Galesburg Business College, under same management, where she remained as teacher of shorthand for three years. During the summer of 1893 she was engaged by Mr. O. M. Powers as assistant to Mr. D. Fullmer of this department, and September 1st, entered upon her duties in this college, a college in which, and a teacher with whom she considers it an honor to be associated.

JENNIE MURPHY.

Dr. Johnson once remarked, "Every man has a story to tell." Some of these stories are marvelous; all excite a certain amount of interest. The biographies of remarkable personages are, as we know, to a great extent a minute but graphic description of the history of their age; and therefore of general concern. The biographies of humble mortals are interesting, at least to their friends, and to the patrons and co-laborers in the particular calling which they may represent.

In a short biographical sketch, one can trace but dimly the actions, occupations and fortunes which mark the career of the person whose life is depicted. But the prominent feature of every biography is that special formality under which the person's life must be considered, the peculiar relations which he bears toward his fellow-men, and the principal circumstances which lead up to these relations. When this position, these relations have reference to one whose inclinations and efforts are directed to the education of youth, a fresh interest is awakened, for men insensibly realize that a new bond is established, the ties of which are akin to the close nature-encircling ties of parentage.

The lady who is the subject of the present sketch was born and educated in the city of Chicago. Having at a very early age most successfully, and entirely to the satisfaction of her teachers, passed through the various grades of the grammar schools, she was entrusted to the care of

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the ladies of the Sacred Heart Academy and Boarding School. The object of this institution embraces in its main scope, the higher education and social culture of young ladies.

During the long period spent at this institution, Miss Jennie Murphy gave evidence of the many excellent qualities of mind and heart which have since distinguished her. Devoting herself conscientiously and with ardor to study, she became conspicuous amongst her companions for the ease and rapidity with which she acquired knowledge, the retentiveness of her memory, subtlety of her mind, and the splendid success which awarded her endeavors.

These days she recalls with fond remembrance as amongst the happiest of her life. After many years spent at this academy, she graduated with high honors, and bidding adieu to her dear companions, she returned to her home, thence to take her place in society. I pass over the charming qualities which she has since evinced, for her hosts of friends bear ample witness to this. However, a year or more given up to a round of pleasure and gayety brought a proportionate amount of satiety to a temperament naturally ardent and energetic, to a mind habituated to the pleasure of books and intellectual excitement of the school. Attracted by and thoroughly imbued with the spirit of activity and progress which has so distinguished the city of Chicago, amongst all other cities, and hearing of the ever increasing rapidity in the expression of thought required to keep pace with this material advancement, she was induced to take a six month's course in shorthand and typewriting at the Metropolitan Business College, and acquitted herself in such a manner that she was engaged as a teacher, and eventually reached the head of her department. While yet on the verge of womanhood, she is prominently to the front as an example to her sisters, as to what a girl can be, if she applies herself to her work with a determination to succeed.

Miss Jennie Murphy is proud of the schools she has attended, but not more so, than the schools, of the pupil who has done them such credit.

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FLORA S. BLAIR.

Flora S. Blair was born and reared in Chicago, and received her education in the public schools.

The study of shorthand was taken up after a business experience of four and one-half years. During her shorthand course her work was always well and carefully executed. No detail was deemed of too slight importance to receive her interest and attention. Hence we are not surprised, when after completing the course at the Metropolitan Business College, she was selected from the large number in attendance as being the best fitted and adapted to the position of head stenographer in the college office.

When it is understood that here she had charge of a force of six stenographers, some idea of her duties and responsibilities can be formed. But here, as elsewhere, the great interest she always takes in whatever duties may be assigned to her, together with the complete mastery of the same, enabled her to discharge her multifarious duties to the entire satisfaction of all.

She remained in this position for a year, when an extra instructor in the shorthand department was made necessary by the largely increased attendance. The field was looked over. Who was there that could almost without a moment's warning, and without experience as a teacher, enter at once upon duties of this position and give reasonable assurance of success? Those who know aught of shorthand know that it is one thing to be a successful amanuensis, but quite another to know it so thoroughly as to teach it successfully.

It is but fair to state that this was a position Miss Blair had never coveted. She did not even know her name was being considered in connection with the position. But again her eminent fitness for the place was realized. She was told that on the following morning she would be expected to go into the beginning room as an assistant teacher. She worked in this department about a year, after which she was placed

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in charge of the intermediate classes, which position she still occupies.

The hundreds of students who have received the benefit of her painstaking instruction, can and do testify to her eminent fitness for the position she occupies, and many can thank her for kind words of counsel and advice, and for being a constant source of inspiration to them in their work.

The Metropolitan boasts of no teacher who is more interested in the work than Miss Blair. She can be found at her desk both early and late; in fact, the close application to her duties has been in no small measure responsible for her success.

JAS. A. LYONS.

J. E. CHRISTY.

J. E. Christy is among the great number of men born and educated in the East who have come to Chicago to cast their talent and energies in with those of the masterful western metropolis. His elementary education, gained in the public schools of the city of Washington, was rounded out with a classical and scientific course in the Columbian University, winning for him the degree of A. B., besides a medal for excellence in debate.

In the fall of 1886 Mr. Christy came to Chicago, and a year later was put in charge of the shorthand department of Souder's Business College on the West Side. His connection with the Metropolitan began in 1890. Here his marked ability as an instructor has raised him to his present responsible position, in which he has charge of the advanced shorthand work.

While still a pupil in the public schools Mr. Christy became interested in stenography and mastered it. His testimony that he used shorthand all through his university course to great advantage speaks well not only for his thoroughness but for the general usefulness of the science of pot-hooks. Lecture and sermon reporting had a fascination for him, which in time made him an expert in this difficult branch of verbatim reporting. There are no terrors in ordinary shorthand work

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for the man who has successfully coped with medical and scientific lectures.

Since coming to Chicago Mr. Christy's liberal education has stood him in good stead in the allied branches as well as in his regular work of shorthand instruction. He has assisted a number of authors in preparing their manuscripts for the publishers, and various literary and scientific subjects have always had a strong claim upon his interest. It is to the credit of our American business colleges that they can command the services even of a few such men of culture.

EDWIN L. SHUMAN.

THE SUCCESSFUL SHORTHAND TEACHER.

D. FULLMER.

HE is always a thoughtful student, and, like the devotees of other sciences and professions, eagerly watches for and craves that knowledge which gives strength and vigor to the mind.

His own experience cannot make him thoroughly competent — it is too narrow a sphere. He will strive to become acquainted with the experiences of all those who have become eminently successful in the practical application of his art. He will revel in their biographies — their toilings, their achievements. Such knowledge increases his capabilities, gives him greater confidence in his methods, and, if he profits by their experience, makes him more certain of success. Such literature is the inspiration of a thoughtful soul ; the poetry of an ambitious life.

An enthusiast will endeavor to meet eminent teachers and reporters —court their society; seek their advice. He will not approach them with arrogance, but in the attitude of a pupil, thus paying them the compliment of acknowledging the value of their thought.

The progressive teacher fears not opposition—will rather court it, for it brings into play the full mental resources of any earnest man. When convinced of error in knowledge or method, he will be more glad than grieved—a just comprehension of honest criticism keeps his ideas fresh and his methods vigorous.

A progressive teacher will be energetic. He will not be burdened with a load of ancient thought. He will not be appalled by the vehement denunciation of his own methods, nor by an adverse critic ; but will test such criticism in the crucible of logic.

Methods that will stand investigation, or ideas that will suffer by honest criticism are utterly worthless. Around them can be placed no

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shield which the shaft of criticism should not penetrate. Therefore, the truly successful teacher seeks criticism, and investigates the methods and ideas of prominent workers in his field.

A conscientious teacher feels the responsibility of his charge. He knows that, in many instances, paternal sacrifice is being made that the child may be better equipped for the battle of life. And he knows that that education must be thorough and practical, or that noble sacrifice will have been made in vain. The thoroughness of this education rests with him. Upon his shoulders must largely fall the weight of many lives—their success or their failure. For students, like mirrors, reflect the ideas, the ambitions of their teacher.

Such a teacher will always be prompt in beginning the lessons of the day. Punctuality he will strictly enforce and show its necessity by his own example. Tardiness in the class rooms is like slovenliness in habits—injurious in its effects and degrading in its influence.

Such a teacher has the ability to elucidate clearly and forcibly. This is a quality which is largely innate and which many can never acquire. To clearly and forcibly express one's ideas is secondary in importance only to having the best ideas to express; both accomplishments are to be found united in the competent teacher. He will also be constantly reviewing the work, thus keeping fresh and bright in the minds of the students the fundamental principles upon which their work is based.

He will also have a high standard of proficiency, believing in the ability of his students, if rightly directed, to attain that standard. A low standard of proficiency denotes a lack of confidence in the student and incompetence in the teacher.

Such a teacher will have all kinds of natures and dispositions to deal with—the kind and the affable; the haughty and the insolent; the timid and the sensitive; the bold and daring; the thoughtful and the studious; the reckless and the indifferent—and he must possess the tact of a Napoleon to harmonize such a heterogeneous mass.

To such a teacher the climbing of the hill of progress will be a joyous pastime, for each step will bring to his view such new thoughts as shall strengthen his mind and broaden his abilities—he will ever and anon gaze at the summit, and glory in the anticipation of the grandeur of the scene which shall meet his gaze, when, after years of striving, privations, heartaches, broken promises and disasters, he may there stand and reap his full and fitting reward.

The glorious inspiration which surrounds any life given to the completion of any object, radiates to the limits of that life's environments, or permeates and swells the seeds of knowledge, idly cast in sterile soil and causes them to grow and spread the rich verdure of useful accomplishments, where before had been sluggish mentality and lost ambition.

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THE MENTAL LABOR IN SHORTHAND WORK.

J. E. CHRISTY.

EVERY school boy and girl knows the difference between art and science, between knowing and doing. Yet this distinction is not a fine one, for it will be found that in the so-called arts these two elements are ever blending and combining in the most suitable manner to produce the required result. Stenography is no exception to this principle. The expert stenographer is the one who not only has made himself perfect in each of these branches of his art but by thorough training has brought brain and hand to act in unison. It is evident, however, that the action of the mind is the more important of the two, for it makes possible the marvelous rapidity and skill with the pen of the leading stenographers. It may be interesting to discuss the workings of the mind in shorthand writing, the training the mind must undergo to secure its proper action, and the results of shorthand writing on the intellectual life of the stenographer.

This discussion may be friendly from the fact that students are frequently heard saying, "I have learned the system, and all I have to do is practice for speed." The phrase "practice for speed" is a very innocent sounding expression, but it means a good deal more than many amateurs imagine. It includes much more than training the hand to trace the shorthand characters rapidly and legibly. The habit of concentrating the attention for rather long periods of time must be formed, and the memory brought to a high state of efficiency. The determination to be thorough and accurate must be lived up to completely.

A glance at the stenographer in action will show that, wonderful as is his manual dexterity, more marvelous still is the working of his mind. As he dashes along at the rate of 190, 200, or perhaps 250 words a minute we may well admire his great concentration of mind and his collectedness. Forgetful of his surroundings, not a word of the speaker misses his ear or escapes his agile pen. And how many things there are to claim his attention! Not only the difficult act of writing, but his note book, the pen or pencil, the position of his body, and even the inflection of the speaker's voice, each must have a share of his attention. If several persons are speaking, each one is faithfully recorded. And how carefully he follows a speaker! No one else in the audience follows more closely, gets more meaning out of the speaker's words, or sees more beauty in his

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bursts of eloquence. Yet how complex is this act of a speaker, how rapidly and smoothly must the mind act that nothing be lost either in hearing the speaker or putting his words on paper! The word just leaving the speaker's lips is heard, its meaning understood, and its shorthand form pictured, this form and the forms of the five or six preceding words (good stenographers are always some distance behind the speaker) are held before the mind's eye, and the movements of the pen are carefully watched that not an outline be omitted or illegibly written. Unusual and familiar words, proper names, quotations, technical terms, expressions from foreign languages, and other important points in the language of the speaker are carefully noted or instantly memorized. Not only this, but every imperfect outline on his note book must be firmly fixed on the mind and identified with its proper meaning, else a great deal of the writing of even our best stenographers would never be read or transcribed. And the most admirable part of it all is that the mind acts with such rapidity that so much is thought of, and that impressions so vivid are left upon the memory. Very appropriately may we class shorthand among the arts; lacking, perhaps, the æsthetic qualities of what we call the fine arts, but, like them, demanding of its followers natural capabilities, diligent study and practice, and thorough devotion.

Having thus seen how great and important the mental work in shorthand writing is, the question arises as to how can the stenographer think of all these things and always at the right time. What mental faculties are developed to produce this result? There are three principal faculties used, the consciousness, the memory and the reason. We will examine these in detail.

I. *Consciousness.* The word consciousness is ordinarily used to indicate the faculty by which the person knows involuntarily what he is thinking of or what is going on around him. This faculty is developed into what the psychologists call the philosophical consciousness, or the power not only to be aware of what is going on in the mind and in the vicinity of the individual, but to keep the attention fixed on a single object, and to study it in itself and in its relation to other things. This faculty is developed by the continued exercise of the will in keeping the mind intent upon the subject in hand. By this means only lasting impressions are made. In this way the study of stenography invigorates the mind. In the professional stenographer this faculty is more highly developed into the ability to hold the mind strictly to the work of reporting and to cause the mind to think of each of the things we have seen are necessary in reporting at the proper time and in the proper way. Weak-

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ness in this faculty is seen in students of phonography, who in the midst of dictation allow the mind to dwell too long upon a certain word or outline, and awake suddenly to the fact that the speaker has said something which they have missed. Such stenographers do not think as fast as the speaker talks. It is this faculty which enables the stenographer, frequently under very trying circumstances, to keep clearly in the mind what has been said, and to succeed in getting it all down on the paper. The stenographer possessing this faculty is never, in the language of the day, rattled. This philosophical consciousness enables him to distinguish the important from the unimportant, to give special attention to things needing it; in a word, to do the right thing at the right time. It makes him watchful of words difficult to remember and shorthand outlines which would otherwise be indecipherable.

II. *Memory.*—Growing out of consciousness, and equally important, is the grand faculty of memory. To write shorthand at all, it is not only necessary to recall the outlines of familiar words, but also to be able to invent forms for new words by the instantaneous application of the principles previously fixed in the memory. We may distinguish two kinds of memory, the spontaneous and the intentional. In the spontaneous or natural memory an object occurs to the mind without being sought after. It may be called the inherent capacity to remember. It varies greatly with individuals, as is shown by their varying capacities to recall the things they have read, the forms and colors they have seen, the sounds that they have heard, and the like. This kind of memory is exceedingly useful to the student of phonography. Without it he can never impress upon his mind the facts he has learned, the shorthand forms he has seen and written, and the sounds of the words which have just been pronounced. In the intentional memory an object is thought of only after the attention is turned to it and the effort made to recall it. It is the natural memory acting under the direction of the will; recalling facts and other objects as they are required for use. It is putting into practical service the capabilities of the spontaneous memory, or, to speak more simply, to think of a thing just when it is needed. As the stenographer may do this very thing, there is nothing better than the study and practice of stenography for the development of the memory. There are many things to learn, they must be fixed permanently in the mind, and they must be recalled without delay when required. The special benefit of shorthand writing as a memory drill, and also its principal difficulty, is not so much in the great number of things to be remembered, but in the fact that the memory must present facts the instant they are called for. Books with-

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out end have been written upon the subject of the development of the memory, and many so-called memory systems have been presented to the public, nearly all of which contain good suggestions, but none accomplishing completely all that they claim to do. Prerequisite to a good memory are a good healthy body and a healthy mind. By the latter is meant a mind with a good stock of information, supplied with plenty of good reading, and correct habits of thinking. Further it may be observed that when things are carefully observed, fully understood and contemplated with interest they are more likely to be remembered. Underlying it all, however, as in the case of every other mental faculty, there must be a constant exercise of the will power, stimulating to action and directing the energies. Thus it is, growing out of consciousness and perception, and aided by the will, the memory becomes one of the greatest faculties of the mind, second only to the reason in its usefulness and grandeur.

In this connection we may notice the imagination, the faculty by which the mind forms new combinations of ideas it has previously gained. As the imagination deals more with the unreal, and the stenographer must confine himself to what is strictly real, the imagination is of use indirectly more than directly, for it betokens an active mind and an enthusiastic temperament. The imagination enters somewhat into the picturing of shorthand outlines, and for that reason, also, should be cultivated. It is, perhaps, unfortunate that the imagination enters too largely into the speed of some stenographers.

III. *The Reason.*—This greatest and grandest of the faculties of the human mind is the crowning glory of man, lifting him above and making him master of the material world, making possible all the activities and the blessings of civilization, and developing all that is good and great in the human soul. As man has been able to perceive things, to discover their relation, and to reason from cause to effect, the bounds of his knowledge have been widened and the sphere of his activities enlarged. The standing and usefulness of an individual in society are measured by the extent and clearness of his observation and the use of what he can make of what he has learned. This faculty, therefore, includes two things, which we may call knowing or understanding, and reasoning proper. Knowing is more than mere consciousness of the existence of an object; it is ascertaining the characteristics or properties of the object. It is not knowing an object when we are simply aware that there is something existing in a certain place. But if the object is carefully noticed and its properties and relations observed, then we know it. Of course there are many degrees in the completeness and distinctness of

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knowledge; but if we have discovered some of the facts concerning an object, we have passed beyond consciousness and are on the road to complete knowledge. It can now be seen that consciousness and memory lead up to knowing. Knowing also includes, besides close attention, the acts of naming and classifying; that is, a thing can not be understood when considered by itself, but by comparing it with similar and dissimilar things. The shorthand student can not know the letters of the shorthand alphabet separately, but by their similar and dissimilar characteristics. "T" is a consonant, as is also "D," and has a somewhat similar sign, but differs from it slightly both in its sound and sign. From knowledge we advance to reason, the ability to start with certain facts in certain relations and reach certain other facts and their relations. Knowing the sounds and the shorthand signs of "T" and "D," the stenographer can reason out and outline for the word "to-day," and from "to-day" he can go on to "untidy," but the stenographer has not only to use his reason in applying the rules of his system to the writing of words, but he must also observe and reason concerning all the details of the act of writing shorthand and dictation, and, above all, use his understanding and reason in following the words of the speaker, and in his transcript put sensible and reasonable words into the mouth of the speaker.

Is may be well to add after this discussion that to attain marked success as a shorthand writer, the individual should be of rather nervous temperament, quick in thought and action, sensitive to impressions and a keen observer. He should possess the ambition and reverence that will carry him through unnumbered difficulties and discouragements and unending labor.

In conclusion we may consider the effect of shorthand writing on the intellectual life of the stenographer. We have seen that he is a close observer, has a powerful memory, and has developed his reasoning powers to a high degree. His intellectual equipment is certainly of a high order, well developed, and should place him in the more intelligent class of people. Furthermore, to make good transcripts of the great variety of dictation matter he gets he should be a well read man, which, of course, gives him a further claim to be considered a man of intelligence. In the pursuit of his profession he meets many of the best men in the various professions and commercial lines, which gives him a chance to become a man of affairs. The stenographer is, therefore, a man with a wideawake, well disciplined mind, and has acquired a large stock of experience and wisdom from his contact with the world. The excellence of his vocation is evidenced by the great number of those who have risen from its ranks to higher places in the community and nation. The profession, however, has its limitations. The other powers of the mind are developed to a greater degree than the reasoning power, from the fact that he has not to deal with such weighty matters as the scientific or professional man, and there is also a great tendency to get into a rut and become a mere receptacle for other men's ideas, and to think of little things to the exclusion of greater ones. It would be well for every stenographer to have a line of scientific or literary investigation or diversion to engage his spare hours, that the mental development gained in the more learned professions may not be entirely lacking in the shorthand profession.

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Make all remittances payable to THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER CO. Make remittances by Chicago Draft, Post Office or Express Money Orders, or Registered Letters. Remittances sent in any other manner are at the risk of the sender.

This number begins the fifth year of the NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER. It is our intention to make Vol. V better than any of its predecessors and with the help of our subscribers, we shall succeed. Now is the time to send in new subscriptions. In thirty days, we shall probably not be able to supply January numbers.

We have been compelled to send this number out almost immediately after the December, because the latter number was so late. We have been trying very hard to secure printers on whom we could depend and we believe that now since we are caught up, it will be an easy matter to keep up. The February number will appear by the 15th of that month.

For the accommodation of those of our subscribers who have something to sell or wish to secure something which they cannot get direct, we have decided to use a limited amount of space for persoual advertisements such as appear on another page of this number. Two things we wish to have understood in this connection: first, that only legitimate "ads" from reliable parties will be received; second, that any goods offered through such advertisements must be real bargains. Our readers can thus be assured that they may order anything here advertised knowing that they will get what they pay for. Rates will be low and are made known on application. We wish full particulars with every advertisement for this page and retain the right to reject any advertisement offered. We hope to make this department especially effective in bringing together teachers and employers.

As we shall soon get back to the different departments that were running before the Congress, it is now in order to send us short, well written articles for the Shorthand, Amanuenses, Typwriter, School or Literary Department. We pay for

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such contributions in publications. If we have used any matter for which we were to pay in this way and have not done so, we should be pleased to have our attention called to the fact. We have been so busy for the last few months that there may be a possibility of this having occurred. We know that we received articles that could not be examined for several months. Now, however, we can promise that anything received will have attention within a week of its receipt.

In speaking of contributions we cannot refrain from suggesting that while we do not like to use our waste basket more than necessary, we do receive some things that we cannot publish. A few months ago we received an article from L. E. Green, which from a standpoint of dollars and cents, was worth at least five or ten dollars. But Mr. Greene did not write it for remuneration so we proposed to present him with a bound volume, the price of which is three dollars. He refused to allow us to do even this, stating that he did not wish to take advantage of our generosity, that he saved all copies and had them bound at the end of the year and that he did not wish us to even extend his subscription as he wished to pay for it, and that if he could at any time furnish contributions that would be interesting and profitable to our readers, he was most happy to do so. Of course such letters make our souls rejoice but we sometimes meet with the opposite extreme. The same mail that brought Mr. Greene's contribution brought one from an embryo stenographer that contained the following words in one sentence: "Unconquerable, undaunted, undeterred, undismayed, unfathomable, unenviable, unendurable and denunciatory." The article (?) contained several sentences and comprised in all less than a page. After gasping for breath about fifteen minutes, we made a few pencil marks, wrote a letter to the author suggesting that as there were nineteen material errors in spelling, punctuation and composition, it would hardly be desirable for publication. After correcting the mistakes in spelling (the punctuation and grammatical construction are still questionable)his unconquerable literary spirit being still undaunted, with an unfathomable desire for prominence, undeterred by our gentle criticism or undismayed by the thought that his production might place other writers in an unenviable, nay, even unendurable position, and bring upon himself denunciatory and anathematical allusions, he returned it.

Gentle reader, if you love us, don't send us another like that for a long, long time.

Our Album of Prominent Stenographers is sure to be the finest book ever published for specimens of shorthand as well as portraits of those well known in the profession. Subscribe at once if you expect to secure a copy.

We extend our premium offer made in the November number, as that number appeared so late.

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BOOKS AND MAGAZINES RECEIVED.

"Andrews' Practical Graded Sentence Book of Graham Standard Phonography," by H. L. Andrews, Principal A. M. Martin's Shorthand School, Pittsburg, Penn. Cloth, $1.25.

This book contains a series of graded sentences, with interlineal shorthand script, illustrating and giving practical application of all rules and principles of Phonography in the same order as they are enunciated in Graham's Hand-Book of Standard Phonography.

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"Complete Manual of the Pitman System of Phonography, Arranged in Progressive Lessons for Class and Self Instruction," by Norman P. Heffley, Brooklyn, N. Y. Fifth Edition. Cloth, $1.25. L. H. Biglow & Co., Publishers, New York.

The only comment we have to offer on this book is that it is about the simplest we have seen on Pitmanic shorthand, and as the publishers will send a copy, free for examination, to any teacher who will mention THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER, it is not necessary to go into details here.

"Bishop's Exact Phonography." Revised and Enlarged Edition, by Geo. R. Bishop, Stenographer of the New York Stock Exchange, New York. Flexible Cloth. Price not given.

The above is the title of a book by the well known law stenographer for self and class instruction. It represents a connectible vowel system and it is too much for us to attempt to express an opinion as to its merits without a more careful examination. We do know that Mr. Bishop uses it successfully and that he has taught others to do so. It certainly seems that as far as legibility is concerned, he has something superior to the Pitmanic styles and we shall deem it worthy of a close examination. One thing we can say and that is that the investigator will find here food for reflection and no shorthand library will be complete without this volume.

"The Twentieth Century Shorthand" by T. C. Strickland, East Greenwich, R. I.

The author has given his system the above name for the purpose of allowing several years to elapse before he expects it to come into prominent use. Not because he thinks it should not meet with favor at once but because new ideas are adopted slowly. He also expects criticism and therefore wishes no apologies for adverse opinions. Were we to offer criticisms, the first would be that a text book is not the best place in which to make a comparison of systems. However, there is much that is unique and novel in the book and those stenographers who are always looking for some-

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thing new should have it. We are not, by any means, prepared to say that there is not much of value in this new departure. The author bases the alphabet upon the vowel sounds rather than the consonants and there is much to support the theory which he advances for their use. We shall take pleasure in going over this book also with more care.

The Illustrated Phonographic World for December, is up to the usual high standard. Among many of the interesting things that appear are "A History of American Shorthand Journalism" which has been running from month to month for some time under the direction of W. I. Pratt. "American Phonographic Libraries," by Jerome B. Howard. Mr. Miner, editor of the *World*, credits Mr. Howard with having the largest and most valuable shorthand library in this country, Mr. Heffley the second in size and value and himself (Miner) the third.

The first January number of the *Phonographic Magazine* has reached us. The leading article is "The Mastery of Shorthand," by David Wolfe Brown. It also contains an an interesting sketch of Jane Bragg Pitman, wife of Benn Pitman.

The Southern Stenographer, Vol. I, No. 1, published by the Southern Stenographer Company, Charleston, S. C., has reached us. The name of C. Irvine Walker, Jr., appears as manager. It contains sixteen pages and cover. The price is 50 cents per year. The leading articles for this month are "A Plea for the Profession," by E. T. Davis, and "A Typist's Dream," by Billie Irvine. We welcome *The Southern Stenographer* to the ranks and trust that its prosperity may be unbounded.

The Stenographer for December is labeled "Holiday Number," and the cover is printed with violet ink on heavy white paper giving it a very artistic appearance. In addition to the different shorthand and other departments which appear every month, it contains among other things "Phonography During Half a Century," by Elias Longley, which is something of a criticism of David Wolf Brown's paper read at the World's Congress of Stenographers.

The Western Penman comes to us each month and is full of good things for all interested in the subject of penmanship. Indeed, the subject is so closely allied to shorthand that stenographers could read such a paper with profit and there is none better than the *Penman*. Published by A. N. Palmer, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Price 50 cents per year.

Personal and Miscellaneous.

Mr. J. M. Miller, who was manager of the Munson Typewriter Exhibit during the Fair now has charge of the Chicago office of Rogers Manifold & Carbon Paper Co. He is located at 213 Western Union Bld. where he is always pleased to welcome his friends.

Continued on 3d page of cover.

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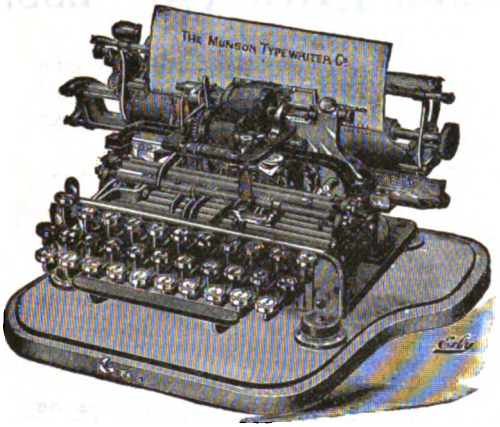

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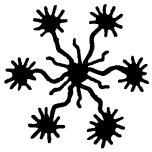

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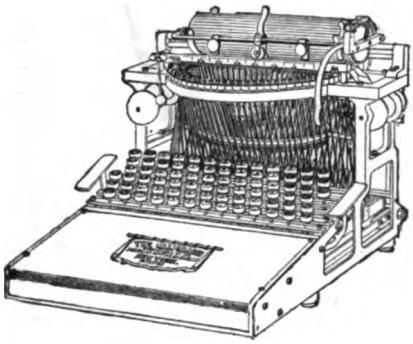

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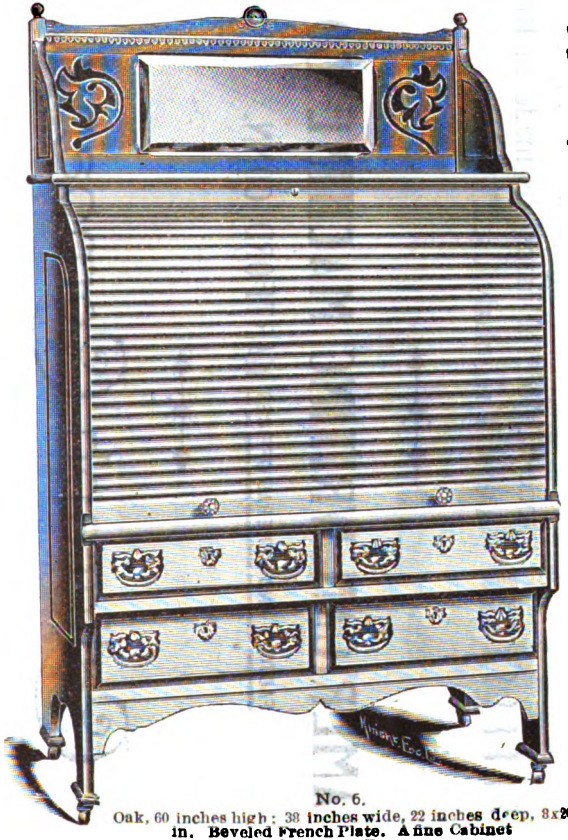

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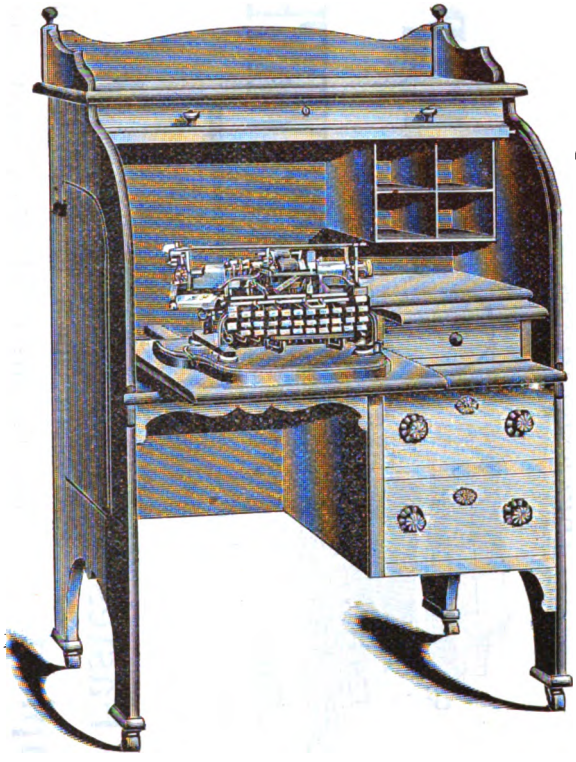

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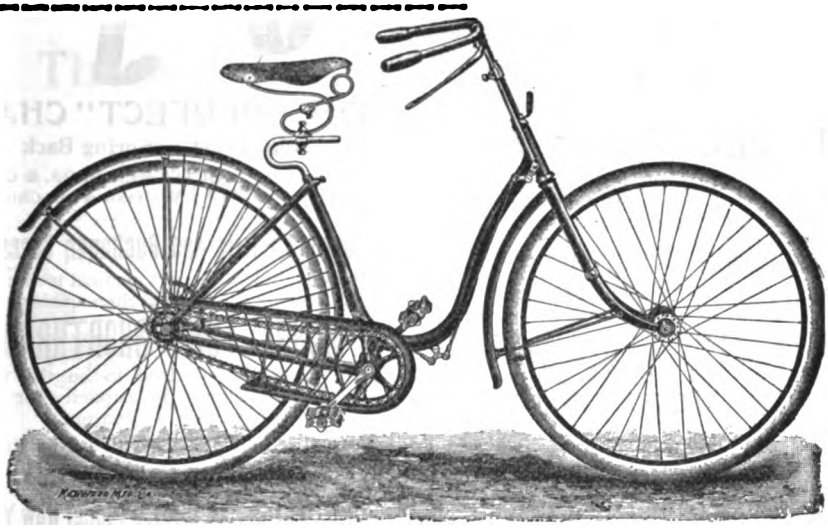

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Biographical Sketches, illustrated with Portraits and fac-simile shorthand notes, have been given of David Wolfe Brown, Stephen Pearl Andrews, Alexander Melville Bell, Eliza B. Burnz, Major J. D. Pulsifer, Hon. Robert R. Hitt, Timothy Bigelow, Hon. Alphonso Taft, Hon. Jacob D. Cox, Hon. Geo. Headley, Andrew Devine, Joseph B. McCullagh, Sherburne Wesley Burnham, Augustus French Boyle and others of equal interest are in preparation.

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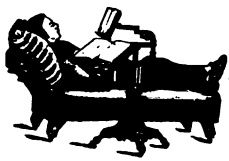

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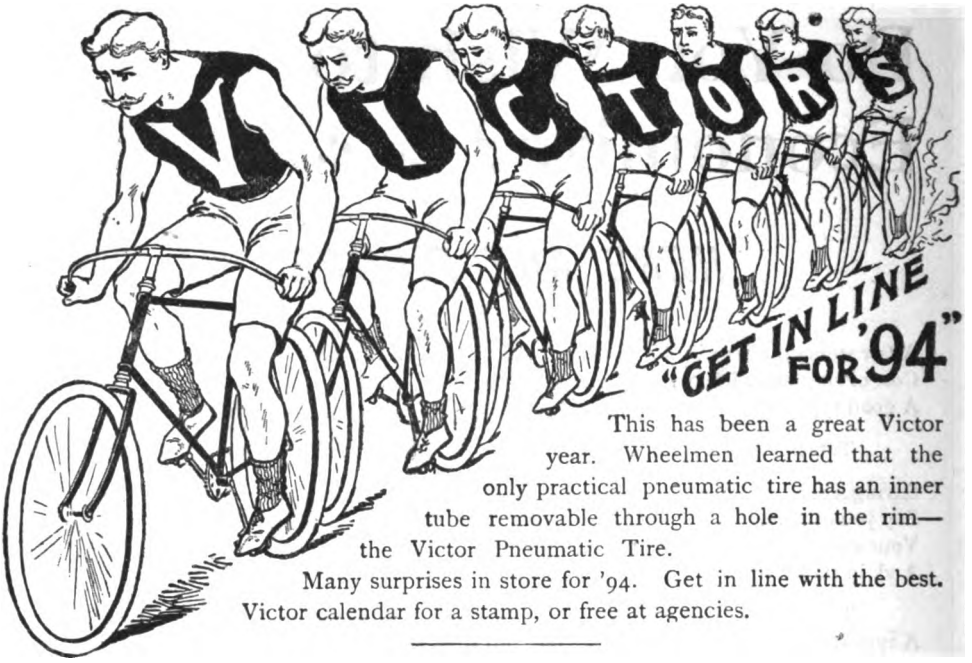

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Mr. Chas. T. Platt, of Bryant & Stratton's Business College, Chicago, and Miss Lena Blanche Hemley were married Nov. 30, 1893. Mr Platt is well known to many of our readers and they will join us in wishing Mr. and Mrs. Platt all the happiness that life affords.

The shorthand department of the Metropolitan Business College had "Christmas Exercises" the week before Christmas and short addresses were made by Mr. and Mrs. Isaac S. Dement, Mr. Powers, proprietor of the College, and Mr. Fullmer, principal of the department.

Mr. Chas. H. White, 17 Onondaga Bank Bld., Syracuse, N. Y., is a very liberal minded fellow and makes the following proposition to our readers: He has on hand 243 copies of the January, 1892, issue of *The Universal Writer*, 33 copies of the February and 108 of the March. To any one who will send him a two cent stamp he will mail three copies each until the 33 are gone, after that two copies each until the 108 are gone, and last a copy of the January until the entire stock is exhausted. No copies will be sent to those who do not enclose postage. As these copies are worth five or ten cents each, we advise our readers to drop a line and send a stamp to Mr. White immediately.

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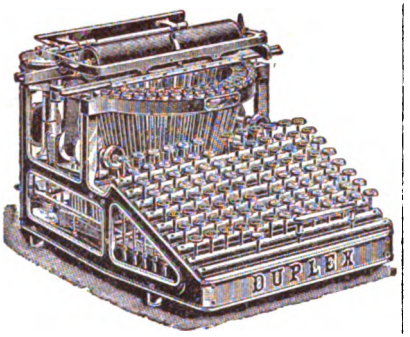

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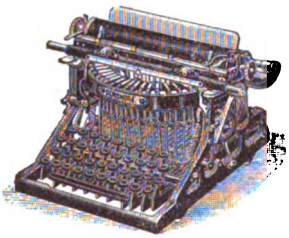

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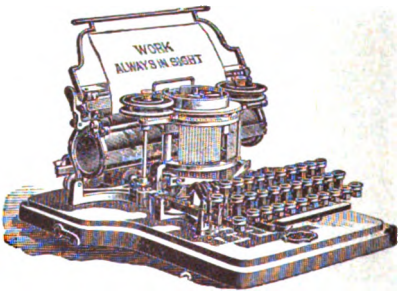

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THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER

VOL. V. FEBRUARY, 1894. NO. 2.

UNIFORM SHORTHAND.

W. S. ROGERS.

THERE has been much said on the question of a universal system of shorthand; and certainly nothing could be more desirable than that all shorthand writers should use the same system. But while we are talking about uniformity in shorthand writing, it is essential that we determine in what uniformity consists. It has been generally supposed that different persons, in order to write uniformly must write alike in every particular—their writing must be *exactly* alike, in the same sense that ordinary writing is alike, allowing only for peculiarities of penmanship.

It is well known that authors of systems of shorthand usually insist upon pupils writing the same forms, in every instance, as are used by the author of the system, consulting the dictionary in all cases of doubt, and adopting the forms there laid down. Now some of these dictionaries give from one to three different ways of writing the same word, being in different degrees of brevity, as the corresponding style, advanced corresponding style, reporting style; or the corresponding style, intermediate reporting style, advanced reporting style, etc. We would like to ask how different persons can be expected to write uniformly with such a guide, for one will select one form, a second, another, and a third, still another, and so on; while, perhaps, the more persevering student will learn all the different forms in succession; first learning the corresponding style form, next the advanced corresponding style form, and lastly the reporting style form, practically learning three systems.

Now the question is whether a writer of a given system may not change the word-forms of his author, so long as he correctly applies the principles, and yet write his system uniformly? If this be so, then the student will be relieved from much of the drudgery of committing to memory a great num-

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ber of words which may be written differently by the application of different principles, and will be helped and stimulated by giving his attention to the application of those principles. Most people believe that the study of shorthand consists principally in memorizing the outlines of a greater part of the words of the English language, which task they suppose can easily be accomplished by a person of fair ability in two or three months.

It is said that it is absolutely necessary to write alike in order that one phonographer may read another's notes. Now we do not propose to enter into an argument in this paper as to whether this is practical or not. The question is, whether this absolute uniformity of outline must be carried out in order that phonographers may read each others notes. If this be so, it is greatly to be feared that this much desired end will never be reached. Any one who will take the trouble to investigate will find what an enormous task he has before him if he attempts to learn shorthand in this way. We hold that this is not necessary, as is proven by the fact that phonographers of any one of the Pitmanic systems, and especially of the Graham and Benn Pitman systems, can read the notes written by writers of the other system, although the systems differ considerably in word-forms. Why is this? It is because, in all cases where the same principles are applied, the results are the same in substance if not in letter; and all that is necessary for the writer of one of the Pitmanic systems to do in order to read the notes of a writer of another system, is to make himself familiar with the few differences.

When Phonography is taught with the view of making practical writers, instead of booming an individual, and the greater principles which have been tested, applied in a common-sense way, we shall have more good phonographers than at present. The idea of teaching phonography by memorizing a great number of words is entirely wrong. The use of word-signs should be limited to the very smallest possible number. The pupil should be taught principles instead of words. What is the use of putting phrases like, "it will not," "may not," "we are not," etc., in a list to be committed to memory, when by the simple application of a principle hundreds of similar phrases may be formed by the pupil without hesitation. Some of our text-books are over-burdened with long lists of word-signs, more properly called phrase-signs, which are easily and naturally formed by the application of a few principles. Learning phonography by principle makes the learner an inventor, and gives him the very best use of phonography that can possibly be acquired, for he is able to adjust it to meet the exigencies of the occasion. The pupil, by this interpretation of the Art, will not write uniformly himself, if judged by the slavish demands of exact word-forms, but

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he will write a shorthand that is pliable enough for all kinds of reporting, without necessitating the great task of committing hundreds, and even thousands, of words to memory by copying. He will be left free to form signs by the proper application of principles. For instance, the phrase "at our own" may be written by one person with "Tee Ar En," by another, with "Ter En;" and by another by "Tren." Would this difference of outline prevent any of the three from reading the others writing? Certainly not; nor would the most radical uniformist claim that it would. Now if this be true, and a Pitman writer writes "trial" with Ter-Lay, and a Graham writer writes it with Trel, does it follow that the Graham writer cannot read the Pitman writer's word-form? Certainly not. The two forms are not uniform, we will admit, if mere form of outline is all that is to be considered; but if the two forms are considered with reference to the proper application of the principles involved, they are uniform. In fact Graham recognizes either form. Now, suppose the books give Fren as a word-sign for "furnish," but some writer of a given system, believing that Fren is not legible enough, prefers to use the full form of the word, Fren-Ish. Shall we say he is not a uniform writer of his system? We will go a step further, and suppose that the system an individual writes gives Ret-En as the outline for the word "written," but he, thinking that Ret is too difficult to write, uses instead Ray-Ten. Does he write uniformly or not? and can his writing be read as easily as that of the one who confines himself to the outlines laid down in the books? Certainly. Then why all this talk about uniformity, and why all this effort, and this terrible struggle to commit to memory thousands of word-forms, and lose sight of the principles in doing so. Is not this very often the result? We would like to ask how many phonographers who have just graduated from our numerous shorthand schools can explain what principles govern the phrase-signs "It will not," "we are not," "above all their own," etc.

Suppose you read page 47 over again. Think the matter over, after you have read it.

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PROVE ALL THINGS, EVEN THE DULL STUDENT.

DUGALD MCKILLOP.

ON account of the fact that sundry incompetents are struggling to get into the regular shorthand ranks, complaint has been made against their tutors, and against the schools that permitted them to learn what they could. At first sight it may seem as if the complaint is well grounded, as incompetents are not desirable, and it is possible that in certain cases the teachers could have foreseen to an absolute certainty that no success would follow certain individuals in their studies. But various things must be considered.

"I claim, broadly," as patentees say, that it is right to give every young person a chance. Here, for instance, is a young lady who is unused to studying and is an indifferent scholar, but she is seized with a wish to learn shorthand. Upon making application at a shorthand school she is advised in regard to the usual requisites to making a success of the business, but, on account of her inexperience, she see no difficulty in the way that appears to her to be insurmountable.

What is to be done? Shall the young lady be advised to give up ere she begins, and thus kill her ambition by thwarting all effort? Where is the teacher who by one fell sweep of his judgment can correctly forecast the possibilities of the party who aspires to be a student? Does he exist, and if he does not can schools be blamed for opening wide the door of admission and letting students discover what manner of people they are.

What experienced teacher is there in any line who has not seen the most wonderful developments from seemingly unpromising material. The dull boy may become the studious youth and brilliant specialist; the precocious and "smart" boy in his turn may speedily dwindle away into obscure common-placeness.

In a growing number of cities shorthand and typewriting is being taught in the public day and evening schools, the expenses, of course, being borne by the city or state. Now, is it desirable to so restrict the attendance that only those who have superior education, and superior minds, be allowed to report in the shorthand department. Is it not better, and is it not right, to make broad the opportunity that leads to the heights of proficiency? Sometimes the student who at first seemed slow to comprehend forges ahead of his fellows and leads all the class. Public money should be used for the public good, without too much regard for first impressions.

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It must be remembered that the study of shorthand is more than a useless means to a useful end, and is more than learning how to make certain characters for the swift transcription of which money is paid. There is a positive value in the study drill. I have frequently had occasion to tell prospective students that even if they only took two lessons it would be a useful mental exercise. The attention requisite to rapidly manufacture strokes of a certain uniform length, with proper slant and shading, and the precision needed to write and read the vowels and consonant strokes combined, are such as to be highly educative and refining. The foundation work, then, having been laid in the direction of a careful, studious, habit, is it not easily possible that early educational deficiencies will be made good little by little? In this way shorthand classes may be made exceedingly useful in fostering higher ideals in the minds of the undeveloped, and in the incitement to the reaching after something better than the haphazard way of thinking and doing that is too common among young people.

More and more will shorthand educators learn that important as a good high school education is, swiftness of hand and natural aptitude for a particular study are important too. Shorthand writers are both born and made, and those who are born artists in this line, because of their quick perception and nimble fingers, must not on account of the lack of a high English education, be refused a trial in a contest that may mean plenty of bread and butter for a dependent parent or child, or a lack of such plenty.

No plea for incompetency is here attempted, but the facts attest that not a few of those who are justly stigmatized "incompetent" started out with flattering mental capital, while some who, at the start, seemed to be hopeless dunces are now quietly doing excellent work as they sit on the enviable pedestal of shorthand competency.

Suppose you read page 47 still another time. After you have read it and thought it over, make up your mind to act and write us at once for the agency of your city.

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RULES AND EXCEPTIONS.

F. R. McLaren.

NOTE.—The following is written from the standpoint of a Graham-Pitman writer, and was sketched out before the writer had investigated one or two modern text-books where the ideas here set out are, I find, incorporated to a great extent.

We will suppose that the student has mastered the alphabet so thoroughly that he can write outlines and vowels correctly, "the best five times in eight." He begins now to feel that he is a "stenographer." Perhaps he has mastered the "is" circle and the "steh" and "str" loops, without much difficulty, but about here he meets another obstacle that again causes discouragement. I refer to the different rules for writing L, R and sh, each provided with a goodly number of exceptions. It is said that exceptions prove the rule, and these rules prove no exception to that rule.

Take L for example. First we are told to write upward L or "Lay" when L is the only consonant stroke. Good. That is plain enough, and there isn't an exception to it in Pitmanic shorthand. Again, write the upward stroke when L is the initial consonant, except . . . . , and the downward stroke when L follows an initial vowel, except, etc.

I think some of these exceptions are not necessary. In the first list come such words as lion, lien, lung, length, lesson, listen etc. We are told to write lion, lung and similar words, L-N, L-NG, because the direction of the stroke will not need to be changed. That is all very well, but a student, and some who are not students for that matter, do not look at things from a scientific stand-point. They ought to, but they don't, and the suggestiveness of the sound and outline will strike them more forcibly than the geometrical analysis of the stroke. Pronounce the word "long" and the student will invariably write Lay-ing; "lion" or "lien" will suggest Lay-en. I think, therefore, that these and analogous words might safely be taken from the list of exceptions.

The argument for continuity and symmetry of stroke will apply with great force in words like "Lesson," "listen," "listener," etc., on account of the medial "is" circle. I admit that L-is-n or L-is-ner is a more symmetrical outline than Lay-is-n or Lay-is-ner, yet even here the suggestiveness of the outline both in writing and in reading will more than balance any lack of ease in writing it. I contend, therefore, that the exceptions thus far noted might be done away with, and phonography to that extent simplified.

Where L follows an initial vowel there would seem to be more excuse for exceptions, yet the need is only seeming. Very rarely does it occur

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that L precedes another consonant to which the junction is sufficiently difficult to warrant an exception to the rule. The only two consonants to which it is almost impracticable to connect it are T and D, and such junctions do not occur frequently, and when they do occur the halving principle is usually found to overcome the difficulty. With other outlines usually given as exceptions the difficulty is not so very great. Take for instance, "elf," "elbow," and "allure," which I find given as examples. I think it quite practicable to write L-F, L-B, or L-R for these words, and this, not because I like L as an outline, but because I believe in uniformity of writing as much as possible, and if L be written after an initial vowel once, I would write it that way always.

According to Graham, final L should be represented by Lay when followed by a vowel, and usually in such words as pull, ball, deal, mail etc., but L should be written after V, K, Is-K and N. Now why after these? Is it not just as easy to write Lay after F, V, K, or Gay as it is to write it after B or P? Perhaps not quite, but the difference is not appreciable and I think there is no good reason for the exception. Some authors have adopted a rule to write Lay generally when followed by a final vowel and L at all other times. This at least is consistent, but I think unnecessary. Although I have urged the writing of L always when following an initial vowel, yet I do not favor the sign when we can avoid writing it. The direction of the stroke is retrogressive and not progressive, in short, what we should aim at is to have our writing conform as much as possible to the natural inclination of the hand from left to right. Of two classes of signs, one of which is written from left to right and the other from right to left, other things being equal, the former can be written more easily, quickly, naturally and satisfactorily. For this reason I would confine the writing of final L to words in which L follows medial Is after F, V, Ith, Thee, and N or Ing, and perhaps after N and Ing without the Is circle.

And once more we say "suppose you read page 47." We can not too strongly impress upon your mind that we are making the most liberal offer ever conceived by a shorthand publisher. For just the price of a typewriter or less than the price of a wheel, you may obtain either with 100 yearly subscriptions and 100 premiums added. We make the offer to add 3000 names to our subscription list within the next 60 days.

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STEALING TYPEWRITERS.

The stealing of typewriters bids fair to become an unpopular kind of business. The typewriter has become so much of a staple article, and its value so well known, that for the last year or two, it has become quite a favorite article for a thief to lay his hands upon. He has little or no difficulty in converting it quickly into cash. But the typewriter people seem to have resolved that this state of things shall cease. All the leading typewriters are numbered in several places with secret numbers, so that a stolen machine can be easily identified by the typewriters makers.

A few weeks ago, a stenographer in New York, obtained a Remington typewriter under false pretenses, and disappeared with it. The Remington people followed him half over the United States, arrested him in Dakota, and brought him back to New York and punished him for his crime.

More recently a man in Kentucky, secured two machines in much the same way from agents in Cincinnati, and disappeared with them. He was at once followed throughout the South, caught in a small town in Georgia, taken to Atlanta and imprisoned.

The typewriter companies have a system of offices and dealers throughout the entire world. A man might as well try to escape the New York detective force, as to get away from the typewriter men with a stolen typewriter; and if perchance the thief himself should escape, the typewriter is sure to be recovered, for a stolen typewriter can be taken from the holder wherever it is found, and every stolen or misappropriated machine is listed throughout the entire country, and sooner or later it must come into the hands of some typewriter man, to be repaired or examined, and then its history is revealed.

Stealing typewriters, or buying typewriters from irresponsible persons is dangerous business.

BROOKLYN STENOGRAPHERS' ASSOCIATION.

The election of officers of the Brooklyn Stenographers' Association for the ensuing year was held Tuesday evening, January 2nd, Mr. Chas. S. Findlay being elected President; Arthur H. Cameron, 1st. Vice-President; Daniel A. Sammis, 2nd. Vice-President; Ernest M. Martin, Secretary; Frank Ellery, Assistant Secretary; Miss Ruth M. Hildreth, Recording Secretary; S. S. Tuthill, Treasurer; Geo. S. Brown, Financial Secretary; and Miss Minna Moody, Librarian. The following members, in addition to the officers above mentioned, will constitute the Executive Committee for 1894: Miss Dun-

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das, Miss Oliver, Miss Vogel, Miss Berry, Mrs. Findlay, Miss Bishop, Mr. Rippel, Mr. Balz and Mr. Wright. The report of the financial committee showed theAssociation to be in good condition, in fact much better than it was a year ago.

The various entertainments during the past month have been well attended, and on New Year's Eve a large number of members and their friends gathered at the club-house to watch the old year out and the new year in. As it was Sunday evening, the festivities of course did not commence until the new year had been ushered in, which was very appropriately done by singing Auld Lang Syne. Refreshments were then served by the ladies, after which dancing and other amusements occupied the attention of those present until well on towards morning.

The committee consisting of three gentlemen and two ladies appointed to take charge of the Fourth Annual Entertainment at Association Hall, February 8th, 1894, has engaged the following talent:—J. Williams Macy, Buffo-Basso and Humorist; Miss Elizabeth Gleason, reader; Little Eva Mudge, fancy dancer, singer and impersonator; Mrs. Elizabeth Northrup, soprano soloist; Brooks & Denton, Banjoists and Soto Sunetaro, Japanese Fatasist and Illusionist. The souvenir programme will again be a feature of the entertainment. Tickets 50 and 75 cents, for sale at clubhouse.

A handsome fountain pen will be given to the lady who sells the largest number of tickets, and one will also be given to the gentlemen on the same conditions. E. M. MARTIN, Secretary.

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER WRITTEN BY CHAS. H. WHITE.

"That eccentric story in your last issue ("John Oxmore," by L. E. Greene,) is exceedingly clever. (We told Greene that it was good.—ED.) However, Mr. Greene left it in a rather unfinished condition, and the motive that inspired him to write it is not very apparent. I hope we will hear from him again."

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AMANUENSES DEPARTMENT.

J. D. STRACHAN, BRAZIL, IND., EDITOR.

HINTS FOR THE AMANUENSIS.

H. G. HEALEY.

"I always do as I am told to do," are the words that explain why so many stenographers do not receive promotion, and yet they wonder at their unfortunate lot. Do not be satisfied with doing only what you are told, but be on the alert to do things you are not told to do. A good helper is one who uses the eyes God has given him and sees work to do which keeps him employed and does not need to be directed at every turn.

A successful young man said not long since, "I believe I have done more work for which I received no immediate compensation, than I ever did for which I was paid. The result is, I have never been out of employment, and I consider it the most successful thing I ever did." That is good policy. He found out something the first thing, that it takes the most of us years to learn.

Nothing will help to secure promotion or advancement in salary so much as a cheerful and willing disposition to do anything that may be required of you.

Are we all doing our part to secure this promotion, or do we leave it all to our employer and grumble that he does not act? Let us see. Have we shown that we are competent to do the work that would be required of us in a more responsible position? Does our employer believe that the position we now hold does not require us to exert our highest capabilities, and does he know that we can do more than we are required to do at the present time? To us who are holding positions, our ability is our capital and our skill is our stock in trade. These must be shown if we wish to obtain a good price for them. A storekeeper who keeps his goods behind curtains never sells. The man of genius and talent who locks himself up in his room is not known to the outside world, be he ever so gifted.

So with the stenographer who through timidity or otherwise never attempts to demonstrate that his ability and skill are valuable. Do not leave it to others to draw out your capabilities; but do not by any means flaunt

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them in the face of your employer and all others in a disagreeble manner, but do it in an unostentatious manner, one that will command attention and respect. Some there may be who are earning more than they receive, others are receiving more than they earn, but, as a rule, the salary one receives is a very good indication of the value of his services. Is your ability paying you 8, 12, or 25 dollars per week? Stop and think, "What is the reason I do not receive the salary others do?" Do not blame your employer. If he cannot pay you all you are capable of earning, it is your privilege and duty to look for employment that can afford to pay you all you can earn. A person in a position has the finest opportunities for learning of positions, to fill which would elevate his position. The stenographer who is not seeking advancement in salary or promotion, is not doing the profession justice, to say nothing of himself. If you desire advancement, prepare for it; prove yourself capable to attend to the duties of a more responsible position; show that you can do more work than is required of you; observe the following dont's and innumerable others, then you may expect to achieve success in your line:

Don't neglect to increase your speed in both shorthand and typewriting.

Don't be satisfied with being able to take the dictation of your employer, but be able to report anyone.

Don't run by clockwork, beginning at eight and stopping at twelve, beginning again at one and stopping at five.

Don't consult your watch every minute or two during the last half hour of the day.

Don't grumble if you are asked to remain a few minutes after office hours, or if it is impossible for you to get your work done in time.

Don't think of anything but your employer's work during office hours.

Don't whistle, visit or sing in the office.

Don't receive your private mail at the office address.

Don't go too little or too much, although it seems impossible to avoid either extreme.

Don't think your employer notices every little inattention you may show at your work, or any extra attention you may show.

Don't fail to notify your employer of anything that may be to his advantage to know.

Don't fail to take a deep interest in your employer's business or to learn as much about it as possible; by so doing you will increase the possibility of your taking charge of it some day which will certainly reward you for many hours of laborious work.

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DUGALD McKENZIE McKILLOP.

AS the name would indicate the subject of this sketch is of Highland-Scotch descent, his parents being natives of Arran, Scotland. In early life Mr. McKillop worked on the home farm in summer and went to school in winter. He taught school for two short terms, but for the last ten years has been a shorthand writer. He writes the Graham system. After acquiring a fair ability in the shorthand line he located in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he remained several years. In 1887 he went to Michigan, and there engaged in literary pursuits, first in compiling a local history of the city of Sault Ste. Marie, and, subsequently, for 14 months as editor of the only semi-weekly newspaper ever issued in that then "boom" town. In the spring of 1888 Mr. McKillop sold his interest in the paper to his partner, and accepted a position with the Thomson-Houston Electric Company (now merged with the Edison Company under the name of the General Electric Company) in one of the many departments of which corporation he is till employed. He has for two years been head teacher of Shorthand and Typewriting in the Lynn Evening School.

But undoubtedly the most important effort in the shorthand line, by the subject of this sketch, has been the writing of his book on Shorthand and Typewriting, published by Fowler & Wells, New York, in the fall of 1891. This book has met with no little favor and is still "Marching On." Its main effort is to aid the non-professional, but interested, student of shorthand, to understand what the actual practice of shorthand means. The lights and shadows of the study and applidation of shotthand, and the real summary of a stenographer's experience are faithfully dedepicted. Mr. M. has been a somewhat fitful contributor to periodical literature, but has not written much for the shorthand magazines. He has sent the following bit of advice for the benefit of the Amanuenses Department of THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER:

"Let me say to your younger readers that they should either take a keen interest in their profession, or quit the business. There are many admirable "dont's for the amanuenses, but two good ones that occur to me—hand-forged from my own experience—are:—Don't depend on office practice for keeping up speed, and don't change over from one typewriting machine to another. Then we should all remember that the highest type of man is not he who lives only for self, no matter how successful he counts himself, or may be considered by his friends to be."

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DUGALD McKILLOP.

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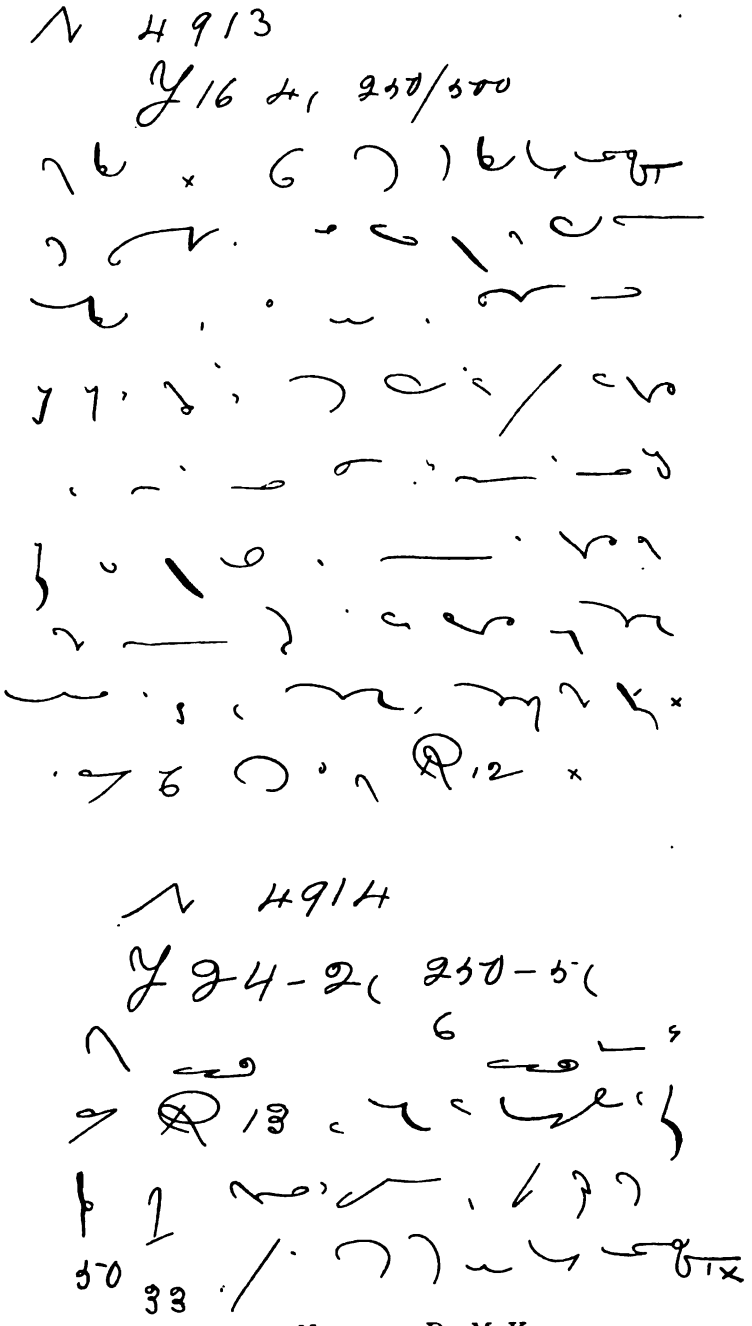

FACSIMILE NOTES BY D. MCKILLOP.

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TRANSLATION OF ACCOMPANYING NOTES BY D. McKILLOP.

Report No. 4913. Y. 16-4000-250-500. Preliminary design. This machine was designed for the Niagara Construction Company, very hurriedly, and is believed to be pretty nearly correct in design, but is intended to merely give a general idea of the appearance of the machine when complete. The field poles were made of cast steel, and the yoke of cast iron, and it was found to be necessary to make the poles separate from the yoke, so that the field spools could be removed in case of accident without removing the armature from the bore.

The sketch of this machine is No. R.-12

Report No. 4914. Y. 24-2000-250-5000. Preliminary calculations. These calculations, together with the sketch R.-13, were never completed, for the reason that is was decided during the progress of the work to change the frequency from 50 to 33. The machine was intended for the Niagara Construction Company.

A REMARKABLE OFFER.

We have made arrangements to furnish any subscriber, who may wish it, an opportunity to secure a typewriter or bicycle without any outlay of money. For 100 new subscriptions sent us within six months from the date of making application for an agency, we will give the choice of a Remington, Smith Premier, Caligraph, Densmore, Yost, Hammond, Barr Lock, Duplex, Munson or any other machine made, or of a lady's or gentleman's bicycle of the best make with pneumatic tire. We will give to each subscriber a premium worth 50c. This will make it easy for you to obtain subscribers. We will give, on condition made known to applicants, exclusive agencies for cities for the six months so that they may have credit for all subscriptions received from such city. Should the entire 100 not be obtained, we will give credit for the number received and the typewriter or bicycle may be obtained by paying some difference in cash. Suppose you obtain but 50, we would credit you with $50.00 on the price of the machine selected. Every subscription will be counted whether obtained under some clubbing or combination offer or for the magazine alone. If you intend to get either a typewriter or a wheel, this is the best opportunity in the country. Members of schools and associations can take advantage of the offer.

Write at once for full particulars.

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YE BALLAD OF YE TYPEWRITER MAID.

CHAS. E. VASALY.

It was a pretty typewritist, whose name was May,
It was an ancient merchant, from whom she drew her pay;
It was but nineteen years she'd been upon this earth,
While sixty years had flown since that old merchant's birth.

It was the grizzled merchant who from his desk did gaze
At lovely May, and muse upon her charming ways;
It was the modest May who drooped her lovely eyes,
Nor answer ever ever made to the old man's heavy sighs.

It was the ancient merchant who fell into the danger
Of his old heart losing unto the pretty stranger,
And if sure he had been that she would say 'twas well,
At once he would have offered her the shrunken shell.

It was the merchant who in business was most brave—
But for love—it made him almost meeker than a slave,
And it was he, who once, while at dictation,
Was most sudden struck by a happy inspiration.

It was the old merchant saying: "Miss Linnet, will you please make
Your book ready? I've a letter for you to take."
It was the pretty May, with all her usual grace,
That over the desk did bend her sweet and smiling face.

"Address it to Miss May Linnet; ah, strange it seems—
The name is just like yours, but you'll find out what that means.
Dear May—ahem—got that—tho' this seems odd to you,
No other way I've found for what I'm going to do."

"Why, May, why do you color like the rose?
No matter—go on—'where was I at?'—Goodness knows—
Well, in short, my love, the trouble is simply this—
You've made an old man find again the youth that once was his."

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"And would you pity have, and share with him his home,
And let him for forever call you all his own?"
It was a pretty face looked up with tender charms,
It was a slender form in the old man's loving arms.

It was a merchant glad who wooed and won his May,
It was a lovely typewritist who caught that merchant gay.

WHICH WAS IT?

THOS. AINSWORTH.

ONE morning some years since, our inspector at Scotland Yard, London, called me into his office and said he wished me to journey to Ashfield, in order to investigate into the circumstances attending the death of a gentleman whose name was not known.

It seems that when the London train arrived at Ashfield on its journey to the north of England, a porter noticed one of the doors of one of the compartments swinging open. On going to close the door, he was somewhat surprised to see a hat lying on the floor. Inquiries were set on foot, and the conductor of the train was positive that this compartment had been occupied by a gentleman who had entered the train at one of the southern stations. He was sure of this, because the gentleman had called to him from the carriage window, and had minutely questioned him as to the stoppages the train would make on the route to the North. The conductor could not give any more information respecting the man, except that he appeared about 35 years of age; that his height would be about 5 feet 5 inches, and that his hat was at that time on the seat of the compartment along with one or two newspapers or periodicals. Telegraphic communications were set afloat between the stations, and parties were sent out to search the lines, with the result that the dead body of a man, answering the description of the conductor, was found in one of the tunnels. The head was severed from the body, the face being disfigured beyond recognition. The first supposition was that the man had been leaning out of the window, not knowing that the door was loose; that on entering the tunnel the door had slipped open, and the poor fellow, unable to save himself, had fallen across the adjoining lines just in time to be run over by a downward train, which had passed them at this place. The pockets of the man contained the papers already spoken of, a few shillings in money, and an unaddressed letter, and it was this letter which caused the railway officials to call in the help of Scotland Yard. The letter bore no date, nor yet any information as to where, from whom, or to whom it had been written. The envelope

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seemed a little crumpled as if it had been carried in the pocket for some time. These were all the particulars, and I immediately set out for Ashfield. I spent some six or eight days trying to elucidate the mystery, but was baffled on every hand. About this time Scotland Yard was continually being called upon to use their powers in crushing political crimes and outrages, and I was drawn away from Ashfield much sooner than I otherwise would have been. Months have passed since then, and the affair is still a mystery to me. Sometimes I think it was an accident; sometimes I think it was a cruel murder; and sometimes—and perhaps I cling to this opinion the most strongly—I look upon it as deliberate self-destruction. That the man, filled with remorse, was tired of his life; that from the carriage window he saw the approaching train through the short tunnel; and that he deliberately opened the door and threw himself under the advancing train in order to do away with a life that had become unbearable. Perhaps, I cannot do better than give the contents of the letter, and the reader can judge for himself which of the three it was: Accident, Murder, or Suicide.

"*Dear old Friend:*

You will remember our meeting in Hyde Park, on my wedding morn. How we stared at each other! And then when the recognition was complete, how our hands were locked together, and the unbidden tears would come as we talked of the intervening years which had passed since our parting at the school gates. How you chattered on, telling me of your career as a lawyer; the difficulties you had met with; and the measure of success you had obtained. You will remember how surprised you were when I told you it was my wedding day, and yet how pleased you seemed when I insisted on your attending the ceremony. You recollect your admiration for my intended was a qualified one. She was not an Englishwoman, and you had an Englishman's prejudice against foreigners. That day passed too soon, did it not? On your leaving I little thought my wife and I would never see you again. In the limited conversation we had I said little about myself. My life had been altogether different from yours. As you know, I was a capital fellow at languages. Three years after leaving school I was familiar with nearly every European tongue. I then travelled through Europe, earning my living as best I could, always striving to perfect myself in the language of the country in which I sojourned. I found a secret society which had for its object the avenging of all injustices practised by the rich and strong over the poor and weak. I soon became one of its most useful members. Whenever a powerful man took advantage of his position and brought unjust punishment on a humbler member of the community—whether a member of our Society or not—the Society took upon itself the aven-

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ging of the wrong, even to the extent of taking the life of the aggressor. I don't wish to justify the existence of this Society. I was proud to be an enthusiastic member of it. You know how; being little of stature, I was bullied at school. Ever since then I have been on the side of the weak, and whenever I have seen them visited by oppression—whether physically or socially—my blood has boiled within me, and I have longed for the strength of a Samson in order that I might punish the offenders. My work was chiefly that of travelling from one country to another, seeking and supplying information, and it was on one of these journeys I met my future wife. My courtship was very sweet. We loved each other as, I think, no other two people ever have done. I told her of my connection with the Society, and she, whilst sympathising with the object we had, denounced our right to take the law into our own hands. She took a very firm stand on this matter and refused to marry me unless I broke my connection with the Society. This I agreed to, and at the time of my marriage I had severed all connection with it. My wife's relations had objected to our union. They were socially above me, and my sweetheart and I were married unknown to them. They had arranged a great match for her with a man whom she thoroughly disliked, and this man ever afterwards became my bitterest enemy. Years passed over and I became once more an active member of the secret society. The Society never allowed a member to lapse who still remained a resident in Europe. It was pointed out to me that I should never have been given my discharge, only it was understood I was leaving Europe for America, and the Society again found me work to do. To have disputed would have been death. My wife consented to this course, both of us being determined to leave Europe as soon as convenient. Apart from the anxiety of the Society we were very happy. One day on returning home, I was met by officials of the Society who told me I was wanted at head-quarters. Somewhat perplexed, I went with them. On the way to our secret meeting place my companions told me that my wife had been arrested for supplying information to the police authorities. At first I was indignant, and said there must have been some mistake. At head-quarters our "superior" gave me a full account of the affair. It seems that four or five weeks previous he had been informed—name of informer withheld from me—that I was divulging the Society's secrets to the Government authorities in return for a large sum of money and the promise of a free pardon. At first this was ridiculed, but the informer still persisted in its truth, and as the officials were confident that the police were receiving information from someone, they decided to set a watch on my house, and on the suggestion of the informer they had that day entered my home searching the house from top to bottom, and in

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one of my old coats they had found letters purporting to come from the Government in which the terms upon which I should supply information were set forth. The finding of these letters seemed to have troubled my wife, and about two hours before my return, she had confessed that they belonged to her; that she had been negotiating with the Government for some time, and that it had all been done without my consent or knowledge. There was nothing in the letters to denote the sex of the recipient. My wife's objections to the Society were well known. She was conveyed from our home and was then in the same house as I was. Think it not strange, old friend, that all this could be done in open day-light and in a civilized country. To have refused to move would have been instant death. My wife knew this, hence her obedience. I asked for her, and she was brought into the room. I recapitulated what had been told me. I asked her, was it true? Her face seemed to betray her guilt, and she gave me an affirmative answer with an inclination of the head. Then my calmness deserted me, and I poured forth the vilest language that ever escaped human lips, cursing the day that ever brought her fair face before me, and hoping that all the torments of hell would for ever cling to her. My passion was such that I had to be taken away, and on arriving home I was thoroughly undone. Two hours later I received the intelligence that my wife had been "removed." The next day I began to destroy all the letters which had ever passed between my wife and myself, and in a desk in her room which both of us were in the habit of using, I came across a short note, the contents of which have burned themselves indelibly upon my brain.

'*Dear Husband:* The finding of the letters bewildered me. I could not understand how they got there. Then the truth flashed across my brain at once. It was a diabolical plant, done to 'remove' you. The evidence against you seems so complete that I know no trial will be given to you, no explanation taken. They are waiting for your return. I have decided to take the blame myself in order to save you. Pray for me; and pray for yourself that you may get from under the influence of this baneful Society. I suspect my old lover. He will be disappointed at your escape; keep out of his way. Adieu.'

Two days later I received intimation from an unknown friend that the Society was aware that I had received a message from my wife. The information added that I was still suspected, and warned me to flee from Europe. The same night I left home and have been dodging and eluding my persecutors ever since. They are after my life, and at times I hope they will be successful, for the sufferings of remorse which I have undergone are driving me—"

Here the letter ends, as if the writer had been disturbed, and had put it in his pocket until he would be able to finish it.

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THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER

PUBLISHED BY
THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER COMPANY.

CHARLES H. RUSH, General Manager.

$1.00 PER YEAR. MONTHLY. SINGLE COPY, 10 CTS

Royal Insurance Building, Chicago, Illinois, U. S. A.

Make all remittances payable to THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER CO. Make remittances by Chicago Draft, Post Office or Express Money Orders, or Registered Letters. Remittances sent in any other manner are at the risk of the sender.

The first thing we have to speak about this month is our offer on page 47. We cannot say too much about it. We offer it not as a moneymaking scheme because we cannot make anything out of it directly, but indirectly, we hope to increase our circulation by several thousand. While we will give for a short time, a premium to new subscribers, we wish it understood that that is only an act of generosity on our part as we must in all cases have the $1.00 for subscription. We are therefore not paying new subscribers to subscribe but we are paying old subscribers, and paying them well, for obtaining new ones. We have many subscribers who in renewing do not take advantage of any premium offer, saying that the magazine is worth the price and they wish nothing more. Good! We grant that it is worth the price and more than the price but we make premium offers for the benefit of our subscribers and are always glad to see them take advantage of them. The one now made exceeds in liberality anything before offered. We should be pleased to furnish 50 typewriters or bicycles under the offer within the next three months. It does not matter how we get these machines but as we neither steal nor have them given to us, you can rest assured that they are all right and offered in good faith. It would astonish some of our readers to find how easy it really is to obtain 100 subscriptions if worked in the right way. Every month, we read of clubs of 50, 100, 200 etc., being received by the publications on penmanship and others of like nature and wonder what is wrong with the stenographers. It is simply apathy. Apathy not only on the part of those who never read the magazines but on the part of those who do and might persuade the others to try it if they would. We are satisfied from experience that this matter of club raising is the proper method of increasing the circulation of the shorthand publications, but we know that none are quite unselfish enough to devote time and energy to the matter unless there is some reward in store. We offer the reward, will you accept it? To still further urge this matter, now and here, we will give a prize of $10.00 in gold to the first party who is successful in winning a wheel or a typewriter. Now we shall expect a letter from each subscriber on the list about as soon as the mails

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can bring it, after you have read this notice, and remember that any subscriptions sent along with your letters of inquiry will be counted toward the 100.

Short contributions are now in order. No article desired that contains more than 2,000 words and about 1,200 is preferable. Send anything for the "Amanuenses Department," direct to J. D. Strachan, Editor, Brazil, Ind. Send matter for any other department direct to us. Teachers especially are invited to send notes or articles for the "School Department," which will be renewed next month.

Subscriptions keep coming for the Album and those who expect to get a copy should order at once. It will certainly be the finest thing of the kind ever attempted and no one who has any pretension to a shorthand library can get along without it. As the edition will be limited, we shall, when a certain number of subscriptions are reached, raise the price to $5.00 per copy which, by the way, is cheap. However, it can yet be ordered at $4.00 to be paid for when ready for delivery.

We are in need of two copies each of January, April, May and December, 1890 and will be under obligations to any one having odd copies of the numbers who will send all or part of them. By getting those numbers, if they can be had, we can complete two more volumes of No. 1. The supply is now entirely exhausted and they are becoming quite valuable.

The Chicago dailies are making a specialty just now of furnishing their readers with various kinds of photographic views of the World's Fair. It is certainly a laudable enterprise and every person in the land should take advantage of some of the numerous offers now being made. We have been looking to see what we could find that we could offer to our subscribers and have selected two sets that are meritorious and at the same time may be had at a small price. The first is "The Photographic Panorama of the World's Fair" published in portfolios 10 by 14 inches in size. It is in four parts, each part containing 55 portraits or 220 in the whole set. The set is sold at $1.00. By special arrangement, we offer each part (one each month) for 15 cents accompanied by the proper coupon. We cannot send them unless coupons accompany the order, as we wish to have only subscribers take advantage of the offer. The second set is called "Du Conges Glossary of Art Gems." It also comes in portfolios 10 by 14 inches with 16 full page portraits to the part. It is a re-production of the paintings and statuary exhibited at the Fair. It is issued in weekly parts at $25.00 per year or 50c. per number. We can furnish it to our subscribers for 20c. per part, the proper coupon being sent with order. It should be understood that these two sets are entirely separate and distinct from each other. The first deals with photographic views only and among the 55 of part I are Court of Honor, Columbus Caravels, The Ferris Wheel, Battle Ship Illinois, California State Building, John Bull Locomotive, Manufactures Building, Administration Building, Woman's Building, Transportation Building, Irish Village, Cliff Dwellers, Palace Mechanical Arts, Ostrich farm, etc. The second deals only with Art and among the gems reproduced in Part I are the following: Sweet Idleness, In Cupid's Realm,

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Calling the Ferryman, An Arab, The First Love Letter, The Fates, The Peacemaker, Thoroughbred, In Love, The Toilet, The Two Farewells, The Divers, On The Beach, Home Songs, etc. By special arrangement, we will send Parts I of each set for 30c. accompanied by the special coupon, As we shall arrange to have these portfolios sent direct from the publishers instead of from our office, and it is necessary to order a large quantity at a time, we shall hold the orders until the last of the month, and those coming too late will have to wait until the last of the next month. So don't get impatient if you are too late and keep writing us about the matter as the offer is such that we can not afford to spend postage in making explanations and we give you our word that all orders will have proper attention. See coupons elsewhere.

We stated some time ago that owing to the delays in getting the *Cosmopolitan* to our subscribers, we would make clubbing arrangements with some of the other large magazines. For a deep literary publication, there is nothing better than the *Forum* published. The price has alwas been $5.00 per year which made it somewhat high for the average stenographer. But the price has been reduced to $3.00, and we offer it and THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER for only $3.40. All can afford it at this price. For a general magazine covering all topics, the *Review of Reviews* is THE magazine. Its price is only $2.50 per year, and there is very little discount to any one. And there should not be as it is worth many times its price. However, we can furnish the *Review of Reviews* and THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER for only $2.75. Every stenographer should read at least one of the large magazines. $1.00 per year is too little to spend for good reading matter, and it will go further if spent through us than any other way.

Our great $5.00 offer. We are desirous of sending about 500 subscriptions to the *Review of Reviews*, for your benefit, ours and theirs, but chiefly yours. Therefore for $5.00 we will send you the following: *Review of Reviews* one year $2.50; THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER one year $1.00; Four numbers Du Conges Art Portfolios $2.00; Four numbers Photographic Panorama of the Fair $1.00; 100 Lessons in Business $1.00; 1 copy, cloth bound, Report of World's Congress of Stenographer $1.25; 1 copy Everybody's Dictionary, leather bound and indexed 50c. Total value $9.25. If you can't use all, sell part and get your own for nothing.

PERSONAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

FOR SALE.—Complete file of NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER, unbound. Perfect. Lot for $6.00.—J. W. BIERS, Plum, Pa.

FOR SALE.—New $150 Bicycle for little more than half price, if ordered at once. Address, Y Z, care NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER.

FOR SALE.—New Caligraph No. 3, $70 cash. Address, W X, care NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER.

FOR SALE.—Bound Vol. No. I. of THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER. Morocco binding, index and title pages complete, $5.50. Address, U V, care NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER.

The Densmore Typewriter Co. is to follow the example of the Yost and establish an office in Chicago. Mr. J. F. Hardy, Gen. Agt., has been in Chicago several weeks looking over the ground with that object in view.

Later. The office has been located at 204 LaSalle St.

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W. A. Waterbury, for a long time with the Hammond both at Chicago and in the East, is with the A. B. Dick Co. as manager of the new Mimeograph typewriter. Mr. Waterbury will make a success of it if any one can.

Last month, we omitted to mention, in the "write up" of the Munson, the names of Miss Jennie Tyson and Mr. T. B. Harrison who assisted Mr. Miller in looking after the interests of the Munson. The omission was not intentional.

We still have the photographs of those whose portraits appeared in the report of the Congress. We desire to preserve them. But we remember that a few stated when sending them that as they were the only ones of the kind in their possession, they would like them returned. If we have not returned all such, we should be pleased to be reminded of the fact that we may do so.

The Chicago office of the Smith Premier has changed hands. Mr. Miller has gone into other business and Mr. G. W. H. Higbee, formerly of St. Louis, is the new manager.

J. M. Mehan, of Des Moines, Iowa, has sold *The Accountant* to J. W. Warr, of Moline, Ill., and it will hereafter be a part of *Business Education*.

The Isaac Pitman system of shorthand has been exclusively adopted in the supplementary course of the public schools of New York City; the Isaac Pitman Complete Phonographic Instructor will also be used exclusively. Teachers should make a note of this fact. From *The School Journal*, Nov., 1893.

On motion of Mr. L. P. Guenin, president, Mr. Alphonse Desjardins, one of the French Official Shorthand writers of the Canadian House of Commons, has been unanimously appointed a member of the Aime Paris Stenographers Association, of Paris, France, together with Mr. Steger, chief of the Shorthand Official Corps of the Parliament of Holland.

This Association is a very influential one, and has a large number of members in France and in the neighboring countries of Belgium, Switzerland, Holland, Luxemburg, etc. We believe that Mr. Desjardins is the first one in this country to be so honored, and we extend to him our congratulations.

World's Fair Views Portfolio No. 1.

This coupon, with 15c.,
will secure Part 1 of
Photographic Panorama of the Fair.

COUPON NO. 2.

This coupon, with 20c., will secure
Part 1 of
Du Conges Glossary of Art Gems.

SPECIAL COUPON NO. 3.

This coupon, with 30c., will secure each of the Portfolios described in coupons Nos. 1 and 2.

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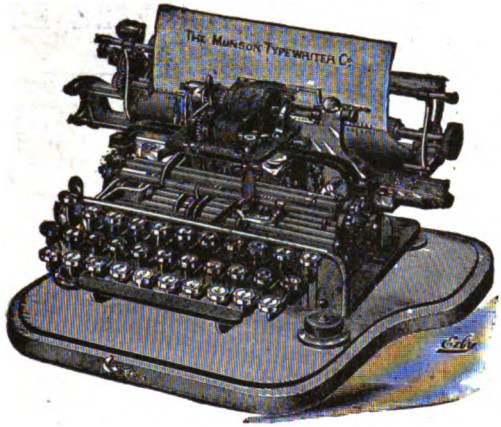
THE MUNSON



Makes fine work with perfect and permanent alignment.

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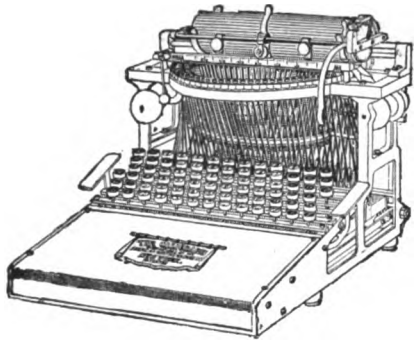

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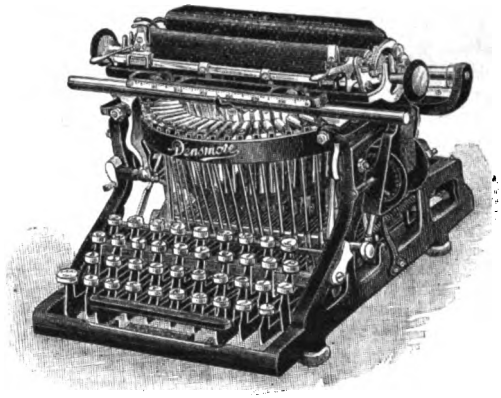

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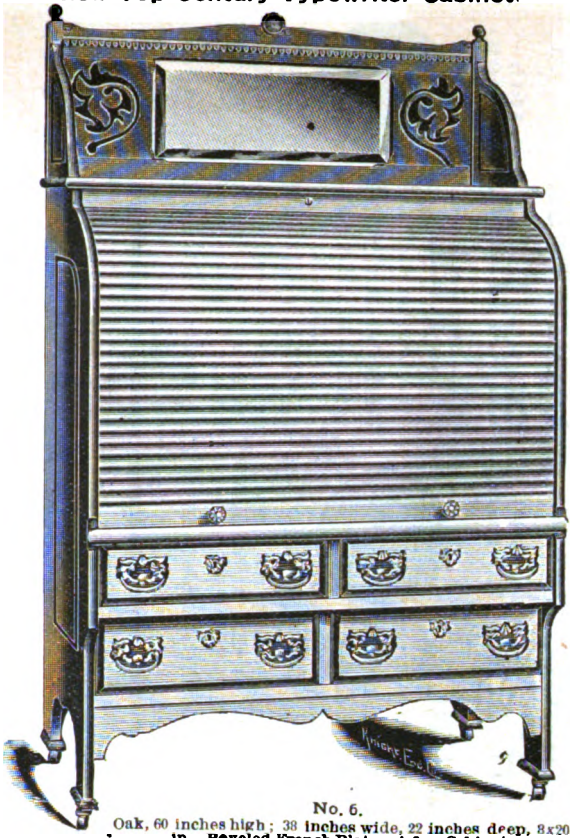

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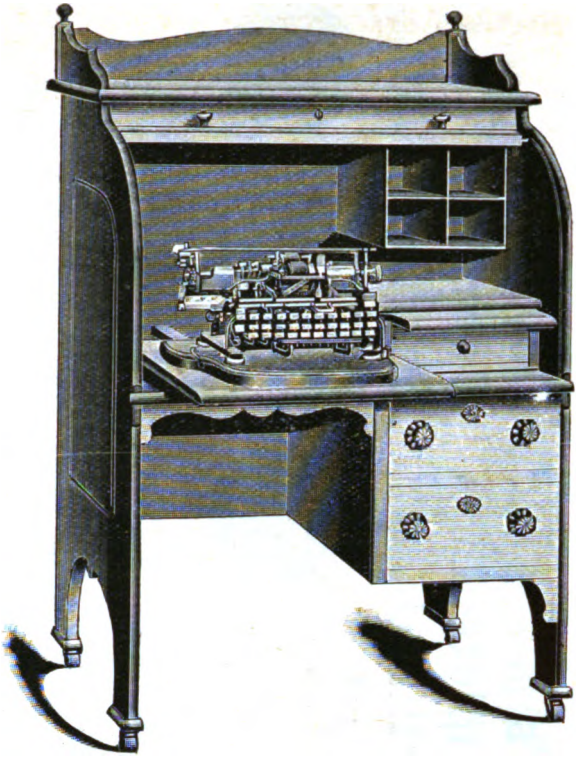

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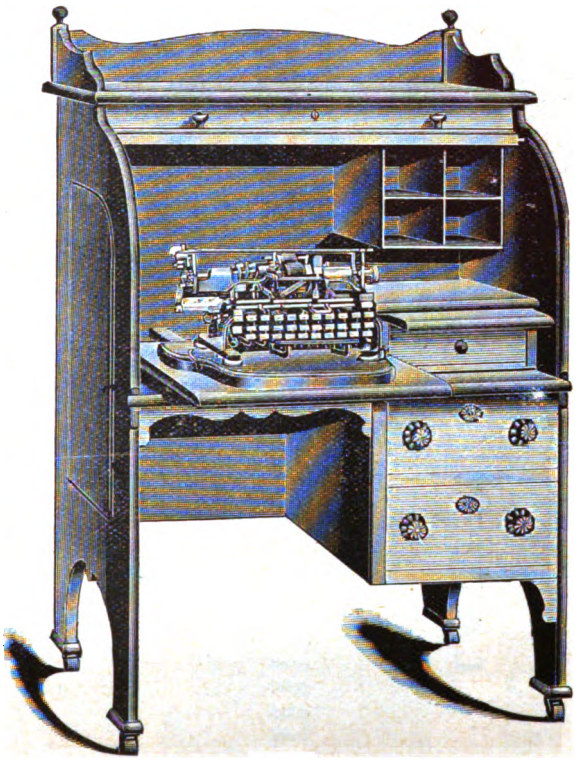

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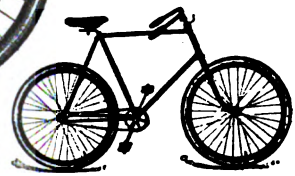

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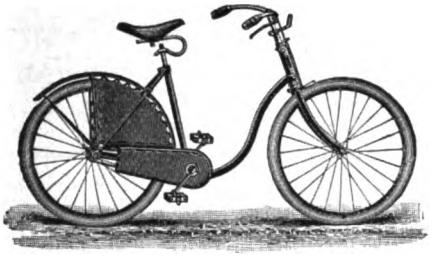

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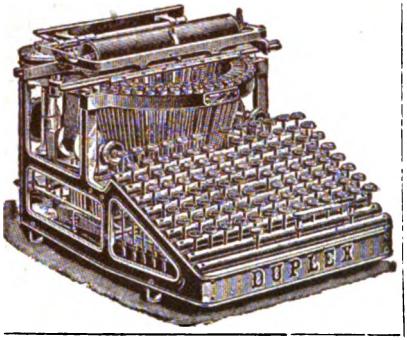

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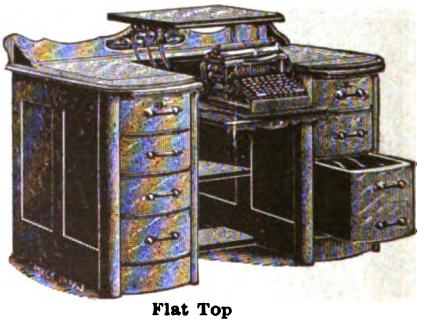

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PEOPLE WHO DO THE WRONG THING.

L. E. GREEN.

MEAN, of course, people who do not do the thing which they can do *best.* It is pathetic to see a man struggling along at a pursuit for which he plainly has no capacity. The illustration of faith and hope is admirable, but the exercise of judgment is hopelessly bad. It is even more pathetic to see a man struggle along at a pursuit for which he plainly *has* capacity, but who is so lacking in tact, or diplomacy, or personality—call it what you will—that he does not succeed. For example, men who practice law and succeed, are comparatively scarce. Those who call themselves lawyers and are *willing* to practice law but do not because they have no one to practice law *upon*, are legion. They do not succeed. Of these who fail, there are many who have bright minds, good legal heads, and they deserve to succeed, but they go briefless. The capacity to do the work is in them, but they nevertheless fail. But the great majority of those who do not succeed do not merit success. They have no aptitude or fitness for the profession. They are incompetent and misfits. They ought to be doing something which levies more upon the brawn and less upon the brain, for one ought to be a success at something.

I mention lawyers thus conspicuously in this connection because I believe their profession is worse burdened by incompetents than any other. The hopeful young man, whether mentally bright or dull falls an easy prey to the desire to shine as a great lawyer, and though meaning to join the ranks of the successful, he must frequently join the ranks of the briefless and unemployed. But all the numerous vocations which are of such nature as require certain aptitudes in order to succeed, are more or less burdened by people who ought to be doing something else. It may not be an

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VOL. V. NOVEMBER, 1894. No. 11.

TYPEWRITER NOTES.

On May 1st, the Yost Writing Machine Company issued and distributed quite generously in this city a neat little removal announcement, gotten up and worded in an attractive and wholly original manner, entirely different from anything else in the line of an announcement for a similar purpose that we have ever seen. It was a four page folder. On the first page was the one word "Fruits." The heading of the second page was: "By their fruits ye shall know them." After saying that because of the general business depression following the World's Fair, last December was a most unpropitious time for opening a new office, especially in Chicago, for the sale of an article that is, perhaps, more than any other one thing affected by the general business situation, the announcement continues: "But the wisdom of its action is shown in its fruits which have been so plentiful as to warrant the leasing for a term of years of the fine store-room in the New York Life Building, at 169 La Salle street. The gratifying success attending the efforts of the Company during the first four months is due entirely to the merits of the New Yost Writing Machine, its many points of excellence and superiority."

We give in this number of THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER a half-tone picture of the present magnificent quarters of the Yost Writing Machine Company, in this city. They are claimed, and justly, we think, to be the very best so far as location is concerned, that could be selected, and to the evidence of prosperity which they furnish is due, in a large measure, the rapid advance made by the Yost in the public confidence during the past six months—since its removal to present quarters.

We understand the Company is constantly extending its branch houses and agencies and is rapidly covering the entire country with them with the view of ultimately taking the lead in America that it has for some time enjoyed across the waters, where the sale of the Yost is represented to be in excess of any other standard typewriter. So much for the office of the Company.

Now as to the machine. We will write this article from the point of

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view of the Yost people. When the Yost first came upon the market its distinctive features were such radical departures from all recognized and then adopted principles that they met with strong objections from typewriter men and operators, not because they were not acceptable and even vastly superior as *theories*, but because it was claimed they were not practicable. They were all right as mere theories, but an attempt at their adoption in actual work would demonstrate their impracticability. The substitution of the pad for the ribbon sounded all right. Of course, if, through this medium, printing could be done direct from the face of the type it ought to be done, but it couldn't,—it never had been. The idea of direct printing appealed strongly to those who were able to look at the subject unprejudicially. The preference for the ribbon was, without exception, coupled with the recognized idea that the inking pad, or other similar device, could not be made to work acceptably. Given both that would work, the direct printing was preferred, but they argued that the ribbon that would work was preferable to a pad that would not, and they assumed that the pad would not. Then, as now, the fact was appreciated that ribbons were, and always would be, a constant source of dissatisfaction, expense and annoyance, as well as an interference with perfect printing. The typewriter was a printing machine and, properly speaking, ribbons did not belong with it any more than with other printing machines. Ribbons were merely an expedient adopted in other typewriters because their construction would not permit of any better printing device. The Yost people claimed that the pad would work; and firm in that belief, they launched their machine upon the market. Five years of constant and varied use has demonstrated that their theories were not only practicable but that the adoption of them was an unqualified success. The Yost did print, and print perfectly and what was almost as greatly appreciated, the cost of pads was much less than the cost of ribbons. To-day the superiority of the work done by the Yost, chiefly because of the pad and the direct printing, is universally recognized and conceded. It is also stated that the pad is cheaper than the ribbon as an inking device by a very large per cent. Among other things that the fathers of the Yost realized needed radical changes were the methods of securing alignment, even spacing between letters, and speed while retaining perfect results, and a device by the aid of which the point of printing could be easily located.

The absolute impossibility of securing and retaining anything like exact alignment with the ordinary type arm was an aggravating fact of which every operator was too painfully aware. The Yost Company have furnished the alleviation through the introduction of the center guide, which se-

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cures perfect and permanent alignment, doing away with the necessity of frequently adjusting and re-adjusting the various type arms. No amount of wear of the type arms of the Yost can possibly affect the alignment. The machine started out with loose arms—not a tight joint in them, and wear only made them slightly looser, and for that reason easier of operation because acting with less friction and less resistance, the alignment being secured through that unfailing center guide. The evenness of spacing between letters and words was secured through the escapement which was as radically different from other escapements as were the other features mentioned from their respective prototypes. The carriage of the Yost was released and allowed to move at almost the same instant the type left the paper, which is the case in no other machine. This is the feature which secures the evenness of spacing between letters and words and does away wholly with the possibility of over-lapping and other irregularities—no matter how great the speed of the operator. Before the advent of the Yost the simple point of printing was located by a pair of scales which, in rapid work, was most unreliable and exasperating. The Yost adopted a simple pointer that always stood at its post and did the work of the two confusing scales, indicating at a glance the precise spot where the next letter would print. This insured a great lessening of wear on the eyes as well as a saving of time and patience.

The pad, the center guide, the escapement and pointer were innovations indeed, but just as great a one was the leverage system of the Yost with its individual fulcrums.

Since the advent of the Yost the advancement in typewriter construction and attachments has been hastened, indeed forced. The present Yost, the No. 4, is simply the full growth and development of the original Yost idea, which had to pass through the usages and stages of a few years' trial before reaching its present maturity. The No. 4 retains all the features which characterized the Yost in its infancy, but they are greatly strengthened and improved, the only changes having been made for the purpose of adding to its strength and durability, and ease of manipulation, and now everybody who knows the machine—and that means almost everyone who knows anything of typewriters—not only does not object to its characteristic features, but fully appreciates their practicability and highly endorses their application and adoption—because the center guide and pad secure the most uniform, clean, perfect print; the pad and loose jointed type arms do away to a very large degree with the running expense; the type arms and leverage systems insure the greatest durability; the velocity touch and early escapement insures the highest speed.

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So the landscape appears from the top of the Yost mountain.

* * *

We wish to add to the above article, written from the standpoint of the Yost people, that the No. 4 is one of the machines we use for our office work. Regardless of the fact that there may be better or poorer machines, we wish to say that it is certainly an excellent machine. Six months' hard and constant using has scarcely made enough difference in its appearance to show that it has been out of the store more than a week. The objections that formerly prevailed in Chicago to the Yost machine have been largely overcome since an office was opened in this city. There are several reasons for this. Objections were made to the durability of the old Yost. It has been demonstrated that the new Yost is durable. It was also objected that, as the Yost had no office here, there was a probability of being delays in securing needful repairs or parts when required. That objection no longer exists. Again, it was thought that the Company did not show indications of strength and that the machine might possibly be withdrawn from the market. Now when the business man or the stenographer walks into the Yost office, (the finest typewriter office in the city, located on the ground floor of the New York Life Building, one of the finest office buildings in Chicago), he receives such an impression of the general prosperity and strength of the Yost that he no longer has any doubts as to whether it is in the field to stay or not. He also meets Mr. H. A. Aument, one of the most genial, enterprising and successful typewriter managers in the West, and to whose personality, industry and zeal the present success of the Yost in Chicago is largely due, for no machine, whatever its merits, in these days of competition will sell itself.

* * *

We were pleased recently to receive a call from Mr. C. F. Clendenin, of New York City, who is one of the best known typewriter men in the country. He was for many years with the Remington in Kansas City, and later with the Smith Premier in this city. He is at present at the head of the Conde Typewriter Co., which promises to soon cut an important figure in the typewriter world. Mr. Clendenin reports that the organization of their company will be completed and the building of a factory will be commenced within a short time. We have had the privilege of examining a model of the Conde, and can say that it contains some new and novel features. We shall await its coming into the market with much interest.

* * *

The Columbia Typewriter Co. have recently written us that the Bar-Lock has been awarded the gold medal at the Lyons, France, exhibition.

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The Bar-Lock is one of the growing machines. We have in hand a description of some of its devices which we are impatient to give our readers. We know that it has some features that are simply perfect and can not be excelled, and no matter how strong one's prejudice may be in favor of any machine, he would be a peculiar person indeed who would not be interested in some of the mechanical features of the Bar-Lock. Drop into the Chicago office and let Mr. Kellogg explain the matter to you; you will enjoy a few minutes chat with him anyway. We always do when we have the opportunity. And what is pleasant about the matter, Mr. Kellogg, like Mr. Aument, does not attempt to do business by trading on the weak points of other machines. They are both always bubbling over with good spirits and do not have any harsh words for rival machines, their agents or users. Stenographers are always made welcome at both of these offices.

* * *

We have considerable matter on hand relating to typewriters, but still extend the invitation to typewriter people to send on more. We will eventually find room for it. We must, however, ask an indulgence in certain respects. We cannot undertake to agree to publish certain matters in a particular issue. We can only give space to each article in its proper turn which is but fair to ourselves and all others concerned.

APATHY OF STENOGRAPHERS.

E. S. WILLIAMSON, TORONTO.

NOTHING that has ever appeared in THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER pleased me more than the editor's article under the above caption in the August number. There is no subject on which I feel more strongly, and my own experiences perhaps justify me in saying something along the same line more directly concerning Canadian writers.

I have always loved shorthand. Had it not been so I never would have labored so hard to master the art, and were it not still the case I certainly would not continue to make pot-hooks for a living. Therefore when, a few years ago, I became agent for certain shorthand publications it was with the belief that the great majority of stenographers shared my feelings with regard to their work, and that magazines devoted to the interests of the profession would be eagerly subscribed for by them. It is perhaps needless to say that this illusion was short-lived. Notwithstanding all efforts to push the sale of the journals—by advertising in cotems., the liberal use of circulars, etc.,—it is well within the mark to say that my receipts in the way of

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commissions from this source have not in the aggregate exceeded my actual outlay in advertising and postage. From this it would seem that one is not likely to become a "blawsted millionaire" by taking an agency for shorthand magazines. But I make no complaint on this score. While one of course has no objection to adding a few dollars to one's income by any legitimate means, "filthy lucre" has never been my principal object in shorthand work of this missionary character. The pleasure I have always had in doing what little I could to bring about a spirit of fellowship and fraternity amongst shorthand writers, and in helping to advance the profession by aiding in the circulation of good shorthand literature, amply repays me for time devoted to agency work. At various times I have taken up and pushed energetically, in so far as I could, different shorthand publications, in which I hoped I had found something that would appeal to my fellow scribes. My latest effort in that direction was made with the Report of the Congress of Stenographers. Personally I was delighted with the book. It seemed to me to bring within its covers in concise form such a vast amount of information and advice of value to shorthand writers in the various branches of the profession, as to be practically a necessity to all who wished to keep abreast with the progressive ideas of our ablest stenographers; and I had still sufficient confidence remaining in the shorthand fraternity to believe that individually they would be glad to give evidence of their appreciation of the enterprise of THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER in publishing such a volume. We now know what the result to date has been, and that the editor of this magazine is a very large amount out of pocket by reason of his faith in the profession. He is certainly warranted in giving strong expression to his feelings and raking us over the coals. We Canadians flatter ourselves that we are progressive and well to the front in most things, but my experience has certainly been that stenographers in this country are suffering from just as severe an attack of dry-rot as our American cousins. Even the report was not effective in rousing up any number of scribes in this country. I mailed special circulars respecting the book, setting forth its contents in detail, to hundreds of writers in the principal cities and towns of Canada. Despite previous failures I had strong hopes that this direct appeal would bear some fruit. I am almost ashamed to tell the result. In all I received about a dozen orders, more than half of which were personal friends in the Civil Service, most of whom I believe gave their subscriptions more because they wished to get rid of my solicitation than because they wanted the Report. From the great city of Montreal, with its thousands of shorthand clerks, I received *one order*; from Toronto, outside the Service, two or three; and one each from London, Stratford and Hamilton. As a result of writing to the shorthand colleges throughout Canada for information which would be of service to me, I received one order, but in the majority of cases was not even favored with a reply to my letter, although stamps were enclosed for that purpose. I hope the shorthand principals of these colleges are not still dissipating upon their ill-gotten three cent stamps, and that all their correspondents are not treated with quite the same degree of courtesy that I was. With this latest experience fresh in mind, is it any wonder I say amen with heartiness to the remarks of the editor?

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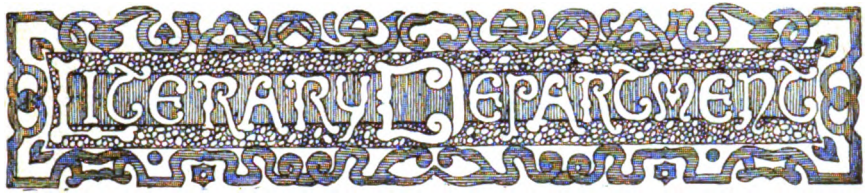

A CHICAGO STORY.

As a business concern the Leviathan Coil Spring company didn't make much of a noise in the world.

There was no occasion for advertising the coil springs in the street cars or saying on the bill-boards: "Take a few coil springs to the dear ones at home." Even the people in adjoining offices didn't know much about the company, for it was one of those quiet money-making institutions which keep under cover in a large town and make a few millions in a modest way. The commercial agencies and a few lucky stockholders are into the secret that customers are always waiting to take the whole product.

The Leviathan Coil Spring company had not made its million as yet, but Mr. Bowsman, who thought out the spring, was the prospective millionaire. As an inventive young mechanic he had made the first spring and as a shrewd New Englander who had learned the western method of "reaching out" he kept the good thing to himself. A few solid men were allowed to put up some capital at the start, but Mr. Bowsman was really the company and all its workings were under his watchful eye.

Once a day he visited the factory on the west side, and during the other business hours he was in his office, which was situated on the tenth floor of the Mastodon building. He had a cheery den, with two windows to the street and a flow of fresh air slightly tainted by smoke. It was so far up that the street noise became merely an incessant buzz. Blocks of stamped metal and miniature coiled springs served as paper-weights to anchor the littered papers on his desk. There were some intricate mechanical drawings framed and hanging against the walls, and on top of the desk was the photograph of a white-haired woman.

Mr. Bowsman was a good type of the self-made man who had not been spoiled by success. He wore tailor-made clothes which looked as if they had come off the shelf. His hats did not follow the prevailing styles very closely, and a knotted black bow was the most pretentious thing he ever attempted in the way of neckwear. Although he had strict notions of duty,

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regularity and hours, he was friendly and even confidential with his office employes, as Mr. Snively, Mr. Upton and Theodore, the office boy, could testify. Their salaries had moved up a notch every six months and they were never forgotten at Christmas time. They had a tremendous regard for Mr. Bowsman. A man who has made his fortune before he is 40, who is in good health and has no enemies and who sees before him a steady and profitable demand for the output of his establishment is naturally to be envied and held in regard.

At the time when this story has its inevitable beginning the down-town office of the Leviathan Coil Spring company was without a stenographer. The last one had been a young person who thought he could be a man about town on $75 a month. He was competent when he behaved himself, but he wanted to smoke cigarettes on his nervous mornings, and the style of cravats he affected served to annoy Mr. Bowsman just when he was dictating something particularly important. Therefore, when the young man came late one morning and wanted to assualt Theodore for some trivial offense, he was discharged instantly, and the correspondence of the day accumulated on the desk. Mr. Snively and Mr. Upton, who handled the books, were glad to see him go, and informed Theodore after the trouble was over that they would have taken his part had it come to blows.

Mr. Bowsman had his proverbial luck. At luncheon he met a friend to whom he casually mentioned the fact that he was again searching for a stenographer.

"Aha," said his friend, reaching across the table and smiting him, "she will suit you exactly."

"A woman?"

"Yes. I don't know her, but my wife told me about her. She's a girl of good family, who has come here to make her own way; thoroughly competent, I understand. She lives with relatives out south, and would be delighted to get $60 a month."

"I've always had young men."

"A mistake. My wife met this girl at some kind of a meeting the other night, and was impressed. I'll see that she calls on you to-morrow."

Mr. Bowsman gave his doubtful consent, and he was not reassured until Miss Wilton came into his office next morning, looked him straight through with her frank brown eyes and told him very modestly what she could do.

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Her hair was parted in the middle and severely combed down on each side. She wasn't a beauty, but she was good-looking, at least, and the cloth gown fitted her snugly. She had some flowers pinned at her throat, but wore no jewelry.

Within ten minutes after she had run the ganntlet of wondering side glances from Mr. Snively, Mr. Upton and Theodore she was at the machine tapping away with nimble fingers, while Theodore sat ten feet away gazing at her and wondering what would come of it. Except for the ancient female who came in to sell fruit, she was about the only woman who had ever invaded the down-town office of the Leviathan Coil Spring company.

From that day a change came over the place. Mr. Upton had to stop chewing tobacco, or rather he did stop, and Theodore brushed his hair with more regularity. Mr. Bowsman told the men at the books that the new girl was a wonder and he was going to give her $75 after the first of the month. She was so unaffected, so business-like and withal so agreeable that they welcomed her into the confidential circle from which all other stenographers had been barred It was agreed that this one would be a fixture. Theodore became her willing slave, simply because she didn't bother him with requests. Mr. Bowsman bought her a new cushioned chair, because she protested that she was satisfied with the old one. The men at the books liked her because she never tried to borrow money, as the last one had done. She scolded mildly about the dust and litter and occasionally made a foray with the feather duster, but she didn't chew gum or tell about her "gentleman friend," and before a month had passed it was agreed that not only was Miss Wilton a comfort but she was also a power for reform.

The office was kept in better trim, Mr. Bowsman didn't murmur soft curses over his type-written letters and Theodore began to take an interest in the pot-hooks of stenography. Mr. Snively and Mr. Upton thought Miss Wilton did too much for the boy, as he would never learn anyway. Mr. Bowsman smiled and said it was all right.

"She's a woman of superior judgment," he would say. "I find that her advice is often valuable. She knows just how to put a thing."

That was how Miss Wilton became a part of the business machinery of the Leviathan Coil Spring company.

She was an office necessity, a cheerful laborer, a good companion in the leisure moments sprinkled through working hours.

Thus it was for a year and thus it would be forever they thought. But one day something happened. It was close upon 5 o'clock, when a young

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man looked through the window of the wire netting and asked of Mr. Snively: "Is Miss Wilton——"

Then he saw her and she came forward to meet him. "Why Bert, when did you arrive?"

"Just this afternoon. I thought perhaps——"

"Certainly. I'll be going in just a few moments. Mr. Snively, this is Mr. Hotchkiss. He lives at my old home."

The bashful young man, who was a trifle dusty from railroad travel, was introduced to every one, including Mr. Bowsman and Theodore, although Miss Wilton suddenly discovered that she had never heard Theodore's last name, in spite of their year's acquaintance.

She went away with Mr. Hotchkiss, and the two men at the books looked at each other in a questioning way.

"Who is he?"

"They seem to be very friendly."

"She called him 'Bert.'"

"May be he's a relative."

"Well, she didn't mention him as a cousin or anything like that."

"It couldn't be that he's her——"

"No; she isn't a girl who wants a husband."

"Don't you fool yourselves," remarked Theodore, who was wise for his years.

They were not kept in suspense. Three days later she told them what they dared not believe—that she was to go back to her old home and marry Mr. Hotchkiss.

"I wouldn't have thought it," said Mr. Snively frankly.

"Why not?"

"Well," in a hesitating way, he's not good enough for you."

She laughed and said. "He's a nice fellow. I've known him all my life. He's the only man that ever asked me to be his wife."

Business associates can be candid.

"But some one might have asked you," he insisted.

"Mr. Snively, I am 26 years old. That's nearly an old maid. Do you understand?"

She went in to receive the last dictations from Mr. Bowsman, who was particularly gloomy. That evening she shook hands all around, and as she went away it seemed as if some one had pulled down all the curtains.

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The Leviathan Coil Spring company sent four wedding presents ranging in value from $1 to $150. The office settled back to sodden degradation. Mr. Upton chewed tobacco again and Theodore lost all interest in stenography. No woman could have taken her place. Mr Bowsman didn't attempt to find one. He employed a tall young man with a passion for comic songs and gave himself up to re-writing his letters.

"If I had only known," said Mr. Snively one day. "But I didn't suppose she wanted to marry."

"She didn't show it," added Mr. Upton, with a sigh. "That chump got a woman too good for him. I suppose every woman must marry, though."

"Say, you and the other fellow wouldn't have been in it if the boss had tumbled in time," interrupted Theodore. "The last day when he was givin' her the letters he was all broke up. She knew it too, but she wasn't here to see such things. She was here to work the typewriter. You're a nice lot. Let a man from the country do you!"

And they agreed with him.—*Record.*

THE OLD ARMY MUSKET.

(A PARODY) BY CHARLES H. WHITE.

How dear to my mem'ry are the tales of my grandad,
Concerning the times when he was a youth:
Brave Washington figured quite oft' in his stories,
Of which every dear word was laden with truth,
He would tell of the action he'd taken in battles,
While hundreds of comrades around him did fall,—
Protected alone by good use of his musket;
The venerable musket that hung on the wall:
The time-beaten musket, the worm-eaten musket,
The old army musket that hung on the wall.

I remember a dream which I had of that weapon,
At which I oft' laugh 'til my shirt buttons ache,—
About how my grandad went out in the country,
And took it along for pure company's sake:
While pursuing his way, he met a fat woodchuck,
Who eyed him all over, with consummate "gall;"
Not forgetting to sneer at sight of the musket,—
The quite aged gun that had hung on the wall:
The time-beaten musket, the worm-eaten musket,
The old army gun that had hung on the wall.

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The animal's boldness quite displeased my grandad,
Who quickly to load his old musket began;
Muttering away to himself, in the meantime,
"I'll blow off his *caput*; I will, by Japan!"
For wadding he put in the leaf of a song-book
He'd had in his pocket e'er since the year "One,"
And fitted to shoulder that dearly loved musket,
Preparing to paralyze that son-of-a-gun!
The time-beaten musket, the worm-eaten musket,
The antediluvian, highly-prized gun!

The song on the leaf he had put in for wadding,—
(And strangely it happened,)—was "Grandfather's Clock:"
Before he could shoot, there commenced a great ticking,
Which gave my poor grandad a terrible shock;
But, bracing his nerves, he struck steel to flint,—
The explosion was followed by a ground-shaking fall:
That woodchuck stood, silently "taking it in,"—
Unharmed by the gun that had hung on the wall!
The time-beaten musket, the worm-eaten musket,
The old army gun that had hung on the wall.

The target still lived, but my darling old grandad
Lay flat on his back in a terrible plight!
His arms and his legs were nowhere to be seen;—
"Grandfather's Clock" ticked them all out of sight!
My anguish, so bitter, forced me to scream,—
At which I awoke; 'twas a dream,—that was all!
I hastened to see if my senses deceived,
But the musket still hung in its place on the wall.
The time-beaten musket, the worm-eaten musket,
The old army musket still on the wall.

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ASSOCIATIONS.

The Gabelsberger Shorthand Society resumed its work after the summer vacation with a very well attended meeting on the 29th ult. In that meeting, Prof. Dr. Zeibig, of Dresden, the well known author of "History and Literature of Shorthand," who lately celebrated his 75th birthday, was elected an honorary member of the Society in recognition of the great services which he has rendered in behalf of the Gabelsberger School. At the same meeting it was decided to abandon the project of publishing a monthly paper in Gabelsberger shorthand for the present. In order, however, to secure some reading matter for the adherents of the Gabelsberger system in this country, appropriations were made to continue the Gabelsberger Department in the Philadelphia *Stenographer*. Preparations are in progress to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Society. The festival will take place November 28th. The regular dictation classes for members, in English and German, are conducted on Wednesday evenings from 8:30 to 9:30, and Saturday evening is devoted to the instruction of non-members. Visitors are welcome every Wednesday and Saturday evening.

* * *

The regular monthly meeting of the New Orleans Stenographers' Association was held at their cozy quarters on Carondelet street on Saturday, September 8th.

The usual routine business was transacted, and the report of Treasurer R. S. Cross showed the association to be in a good financial condition.

Miss Eva D. Anderson was elected from associate to active membership. The applications of Messrs. F. J. Choppin, H. G. Battle and Miss Jessie L. Bowe were received and referred to their proper committee. The Association decided to renew the lease of their present quarters for another year. Prof. Edward Jegou submitted an offer to teach the French and Spanish languages to the members at a nominal charge. His offer was favorably acted upon, and all members desiring to study either language were requested to send their names to the Secretary.

Messrs. Joseph Lallande, Nat. L. Marks and R. S. Cross were appointed a committee by president Peters to draft proper resolutions on the death of F. E. Guedry, one of the members, and send a copy of the same to his family.

The meeting then adjourned.

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LINCOLN SHORTHAND CLUB.

A large number of the stenographers of Lincoln, Neb., responded to a call sent out by Mr. Dan Brown, and a meeting for the purpose of organization was held on Saturday evening, September 29th, in the shorthand rooms of the Lincoln Business College. Mr. Brown was appointed chairman, Mr. Charles H. Nelson, secretary, and Julia M. Fay, treasurer. Some music was rendered by a mandolin quartet, consisting of Clara Fowler, Clara Lease, Sue Bertram and Bertie Hearne. Miss Ella Jackson recited "Entertaining her big sister's beau."

A committee appointed on temporary organization submitted a brief constitution, giving the name "Lincoln Shorthand Club," stating the objects, providing for active, associate and honorary members, necessary officers, and for regular and annual meetings. The report of the committee was adopted, and organizing members were enrolled. It was decided that all persons joining at organizing meeting should be enrolled as active members on payment of 25 cents initiation fee. The result of the action was the enrollment of thirty-eight organizing members.

A committee was then appointed on permanent organization to prepare and report a constitution and by-laws to be acted upon at the next meeting of the Club. This committee consists of Myron E. Wheeler, chairman, Julia M. Fay, Dan Brown, W. G. Chamberlain and Albert Dills.

The next meeting of the Club will be held on Saturday, October 13th, in the rooms of the Chamberlain Academy, Lansing Theatre Building.

CHARLES H. NELSON, Secretary.

ASSOCIATIONS.

In our miscellaneous department we have been publishing the proceedings of associations. We shall gladly continue to do so and invite regular reports from all the associations in the country. We would, however, like to offer a suggestion in this connection. The reports we have received in the past have not been entirely satisfactory to us, nor do we believe they were entirely satisfactory to anyone. We do not like to publish anything, outside of a mere notice, as it appears in other magazines. We presume the other publications feel the same way about it, but the fact is that it seems to be the rule when reports are made at all of the meetings of associations, they are made in a stereotyped way and three or four carbon copies made. Sometimes we get the original and sometimes a carbon. Of course we are not imposed upon when we get the carbon copy as we are then sure the same matter is to appear elsewhere, but when we get an original we don't know. We may then think we have a "scoop" and get fooled. Just as much as the special reports of a bright newspaper correspondent are more interesting than the set forms which occupy the patent insides of thousands of country newspapers, so would be a spicy letter from the secretary or other member of the association in place of the usual report. We would be glad to have members of all societies think of this.

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A NEW OFFER.

For some time we have been offering extraordinary inducements for clubs of one hundred. This was a pretty large number for times like these although some will reach the number. But we recognize the fact that not every one can secure clubs of one hundred or even fifty or twenty-five. We do not believe we have a subscriber on the list who can not secure one other subscriber, and we propose to pay well for all secured, be it one or one thousand. We find by looking into the matter that the total value of one each of the various publications issued or sold by us amounts to about thirty dollars. There is not a single one in the list but is well worthy of a place in any shorthand library while the entire list would make a splendid nucleus for such a library. We have outlined a plan by which any of our readers may secure the entire lot or any desired part of them without the expenditure of a single cent. In this list will be included our Album of Prominent Stenographers, full set of bound Vols. of THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER Report of the Congress, bound in silk, etc. We will send full particulars to anyone who is interested enough to write us in regard to the matter. Address The National Stenographer Co., Chicago, Ill.

AFTER THOUGHTS.

BY S. H. EAST.

Our Sixth Annual Convention was a success. We were not numerousl but we were good humored.

We might have been numerous if we were all as enthusiastic as brother Strachan. He believes in associations.

After all, the best part of a convention is not its papers or its speeches, but its conversations. It does us good to get acquainted and to learn that other stenographers as well as ourselves have a good deal of human nature about them.

A few copies of proceedings of previous meetings are still in the hands of the Secretary. Price 25 cents.

Copies of Constitution and By-Laws, together with a list of members, may be had by addressing the Secretary.

It was the intention of the Librarian to prepare a complete list of the books in the library for the publication in the proceedings, but lack of time and space prevented. A list may be had by any member on applicationr

Next year we are going to have a grand meeting—mark my word ! We are getting ready for it now. Make your arrangements to be with us.

Our next annual meeting will be held in Indirnapolis. The time will be announced in THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER. Now is the time to subscribe !

NOTE—This was omitted last month for lack of space.

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THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER

PUBLISHED BY

THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER COMPANY.

C. H. RUSH, Pres. and Mgr. ANNA RUSH, Sec'y.

$1.00 PER YEAR. MONTHLY. SINGLE COPY, 10 CTS

153-53rd Street, Chicago, Illinois, U. S. A.

Make all remittances payable to THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER CO. Make remittances by Chicago Draft, Post Office or Express Money Orders, or Registered Letters. Remittances sent in any other manner are at the risk of the sender.

We would respectfully call the attention of the hundreds who are not subscribers and who have not yet had a copy of the Report of the Proceedings of the World's Congress of Stenographers to the advertisement of the same in this issue. Read the list of contents and see if it is not worth $1.25 of any one's money. It will also be noticed that we have quite a list of publications for sale. They are all good and should be in every stenographers library.

Watch for our December number. Why? It don't matter why, just you do the watching, we'll do the rest.

The December number will be unusually early and those whose subscriptions expire with this number should renew at once. In fact, we hope to have the December number ready about the 20th of November, so that we may have a little breathing spell before the January number. We did not get time for that much desired vacation this year and in fact, we have had no vacation since we have been connected with THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER. We therefore hope to have time enough during the holidays to go to see our best (typewriter) girl, attend the meeting of Stenographers and Business College people at Lincoln, Neb., and indulge in other divers and innocent pastimes.

We are promised contributions for the December number by David Wolfe Brown, N. P. Heffley, Chas. T. Platt, W. E. Cody, A. M. Hopkins, S. H. East, J. W. Harrell, Carrie A. Clarke, F. R. McLaren, S. W. Blodgett and others. We'll have a feast if only half of them materialize. But we are quite certain that they will all be in line and in addition to that, we shall have some exceedingly interesting typewriter news. Truly no one who is half interested in shorthand can afford to miss the Christmas number of THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER. By the way, it will not be a bad number for advertisers and

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those who have goods of any kind to bring before the notice of the best class of stenographers will do well to remember this. No advertisement can be received later than the 12th of November for this issue.

Chas. T. Platt, one of the best known shorthand men in the country, for many years connected with the Bryant & Stratton Business College of this city, and for some time with Pierce's Business College of Philadelphia, has severed his connection with Bryant & Stratton's. We do not not know at this writing where Mr. Platt will locate but trust he will remain in Chicago as we have need of all the good teachers we have here and Mr. Platt is one of the best if not the best teacher in Chicago to-day. He thinks some of starting a shorthand school of his own and should he do so we have no doubt he will meet with deserved success.

Last month the proceedings of the Indiana State Meeting took up so much of our space that the publisher's department was cut short and even some of our advertisements had to be left out at the last moment. We really have some matter on hand that was left over from September. In that number, one paragraph referred to the preceding paragraph when in fact it had not the remotest connection with it but the paragraph to which it did refer was omitted because of lack of space. It had reference to that distinguished personage, Mr. Frank Harrison, of Boston. It referred to the fact that a copy of his magazine had reached us (the only one in a year,) that it contained an article taken from our Report of the World's Congress of Stenographers and that neither THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER nor the author of the article received credit. It will be remembered that Mr. Harrison is the man who facetiously remarked: "I cannot learn that anything was said or done at the World's Congress of Stenographers of enough importance to justify me in giving space to it." Truly, Mr. Harrison is a wonderful man.

We were somewhat amused the other day upon receiving a publication which had apparently missed several issues to find the statement that the missing issues could not be published because of a ruling of the Post Office department. It may be so but the amusing part is that there is nothing about the sheet to show that it is entered as second class matter and therefore it would make little difference to the Post Office authorities how many issues were "hit" or "missed." Verily, there are some strange people in this world.

Notice our new address in writing us. Some explanation may be well for the benefit of those who wish to call on us personally at any time. The office of the magazine is room

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29 Ballard Bld., 153-53rd St., where all correspondence is conducted and where our secretary may be found at all times. Our mailing is done direct from Blue Island where the magazine is printed. Our manager has an office in the heart of the city, No. 1006 Ashland Blk., where he can be found six days in the week. His telephone No. is Main 3439. All correspondence addressed to him, however, relative to the magazine, should be sent to the office on 53rd St. Any of our subscribers outside of Chicago, who may chance to visit the city, are invited to call at either or both places.

Two or three months ago we received a letter from Mr. C. F. Hull, of Salem, Utah as follows: "Dear Sir.—Would you kindly give me the address of the following publications? *The Cosmopolitan Shorthander; The Shorthand World; The Southern Stenographer; The Western Stenographer; The Stenographic World.* I believe there are many stenographers in this country who are unaware of the existence of a great many of our shorthand magazines. I would be glad to see a list of our American shorthand magazines, at least, published in THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER. I believe I am not alone in this desire. I would like to take magazines from the various sections of our country so as to learn what is going on in the different parts of the shorthand world but in fact I do not know the address of a single shorthand journal in the South or in the West. When I say West I mean west of the Missouri River."

In reply to Mr. Hull's question, we have to say that the *Cosmopolitan Shorthander* and the *Stenographic World* died long since. *The Shorthand World* is published at Omaha, *The Southern Stenographer* at Charleston, and *The Western Stenographer* at Kansas City. We have not seen a copy of the latter for several months but presume it is still in this vale of tears. Outside of those mentioned the only ones that we have reason to know are in existence at the present time and worthy of support are *The Phonographic world*, New York, *The Student's Journal*, New York, *The Shorthand Educator*, Brooklyn, *The Canadian Shorthand Review*, Toronto, *The Stenographer*, Philadelphia, *The Phonographic Magazine*, Cincinnati, *The Phonographic Journal*, Port Jervis, N. Y., and *Pernin's Monthly Stenographer*, Detroit. We would be pleased to add to the list the publications of Bro. Cross, of Downer's Grove, Ill., and Bro. Barnes, of St. Louis but we have not received any copies for a long time and therefore can not vouch for their present existence. We will revise our last statement, as we find that we have received a copy of Barnes magazine for September. We also wish to say that *Stenographer's Bulletin*, of Buffalo N. Y., is another one of the new and enterprising publications. Sam-

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ples of all these may be obtained upon request to the publishers by mentioning THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER.

The above paragraph brings up an interesting question and that is, is it to the advantage of the stenographers of this country that there should be so many magazines, or more or less? It is true that they are constantly springing up like mushrooms and springing down again likewise. But we have no sympathy for the stenographer who is so selfish, narrow minded and bigoted as to say he will not subscribe for one of these new magazines for fear that they may only publish five or six numbers and then cease. Suppose they do, the publisher is to be commended for his efforts during that time and on him falls the heavy loss. You, at the most have spent but fifty cents or one dollar by way of encouraging the said publisher. The five or six numbers which you have received are worth more than the money spent and therefore you have lost nothing. We know stenographers who make it a rule to subscribe for every publication started in the country in the interests of shorthand. We know of others who make it a rule to spend a certain amount each year for shorthand literature including magazines and books, the amount being from ten to twenty-five dollars. The spirit of the latter class is to be commended and we would that there were thousands more of them. It is probable that the majority of those who undertake the publication of a shorthand magazine have little realization of what the undertaking really means. They do not quit because they are compelled to but because it is a foolish thing to sink money month after month or in cases where there is any profit it is so small that the same energy will yield much better returns if used in some other direction. We do not think any of us would care to continue business forever under such conditions as prevailed last year and this. But that is just as true of many other kinds of business. THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER is one of the three or four well established magazines. It is just about to pass into its sixth year. It is not losing money. On the other hand while it is yielding a fair net profit, we are perfectly free to say that the same amount of work devoted to other business would probably yield much better returns. But the reason of all this is the intense indifference of the great body of stenographers. The field is large enough for every one of a dozen magazines to have a larger circulation and be of more importance than the most important and widely circulated one now published. So there is room for all and as far as THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER is concerned, it always stands ready to welcome the new publication, to encourage it to persevere and last but not least to urge its own subscribers to subscribe for the new one. The

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stenographer who cannot or will not spend five dollars a year for shorthand magazines does not do his duty neither to himself nor to the profession.

This issue will reach hundreds of stenographers who perhaps have never seen a copy before. We ask such to carefully read and consider it. A dollar can be spent in no more profitable way than to subscribe for THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER. A subscription blank will be found in this number. Fill out the same, send to us with one dollar, at once, and you will receive a year's subscription beginning with the January issue, the Christmas number of this year being sent you free of charge. This offer will also apply to those whose subscriptions expire with the November number. If immediately renewed they will receive thirteen copies next time instead of twelve. We desire to have as many subscriptions as possible begin with the first month of the year.

We are glad to note that our article in the July number on the "Apathy of Stenographers" has had the effect of making many people think a great deal. The trouble is, however, it did not reach the ones who should be the most affected. Mr. Willamson breaks out in endorsement of our position this month and Mr. Heffley, in the October number of the "Shorthand Educator" corroborates what we said and backs it up by the statement that his twenty-five years in the work proves it. We have not been in shorthand work that long but it took us just three months to find it out after we engaged in the publishing business. But we have not lost hope and we believe that the theory which we advanced in the September number, namely, that relief must come through the shorthand teachers is the correct one. They must educate students to be stenographers in every sense of the term and then the work may be called what it should be, a profession, and not an easily learned trade. If we only had more teachers like Heffley, Brown, Platt, East, McLaren, Woodworth, Healey, Harrell, Miss Clarke, and dozens of others whom we might mention, things would soon be different. But the fact is it would be very hard to find a very considerable number of teachers of the class mentioned out of the three or four thousand now trying to teach shorthand in this country. And there you are.

We desire to call the attention to our advertisement of Dement's Pitmanic Shorthand. We are frank to say that we do not care to handle this book and we will not handle it after this supply is exhausted. But while they last those who wish them can have them at "bargain counter" prices. Now is the time for schools using the book to lay in a stock.

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Our special attention to typewriters and typewriter matters is meeting with great favor. We now have on hand some interesting matter relative to the Bar-Lock, Hammond, Conde and Remington-Sholes, all of which will appear in due time and be of great interest. We are glad to see the typewriter people taking advantage of our invitation of a few months ago to send us items and articles of interest relating to their machines. THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER will become the great typewriting news journal. But it will always continue to be independent, remember that.

We had intended to say considerable in this issue for the benefit of our advertisers but as usual we are reaching the limit of our space and have not said nearly as much as we intended. As advertising forms a considerable part of the support of a magazine of this character, we feel that advertisers are certainly entitled to a great deal of consideration. We know that the last year or more has not been prolific of great results. But this is true of any business and the advertising medium is not to blame. One of our patrons, a short time ago, in renewing the contract for another year and in taking more space at a better rate said: "We do not care whether we ever receive a single direct reply from our advertisement in THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER. What we desire is to constantly keep before stenographers the fact that our goods are on the "market." And strange as it may seem to some advertisers, these people are paying us more than two hundred dollars a year in cold, hard cash and yet they do not care whether they ever receive a reply to their advertisement. Why is it? Is it because they have money to throw away or because they don't know how to do business? It is certainly neither because they are among the most successful business men in their line and we feel certain that they know how to spend their money judiciously. Their theory is the correct one. We do not know that we can illustrate our point better than to quote a few lines that recently appeared in "Printers' Ink" in regard to advertising. It is as follows: "If good goods advertise themselves, it is strange that the names of the non-advertised brands of soap, baking-powder, proprietary medicines, etc., are not more familiar to us." The same may be said of typewriters, ribbons, carbons, papers, text books, pens, pencils, desks and the various other things which stenographers use. It is true that we do not expect, and the advertiser should not expect that the moment a quarter page advertisement appears in THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER, stenographers are going to sit down and order the goods, sending cash with order, but who can tell how much influence that little advertisement is having. We know of a half

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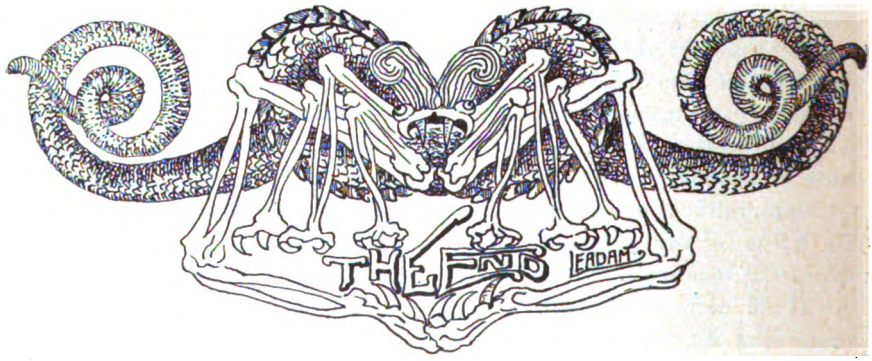
a dozen typewriters, to-day, claimed by the manufacturers to be aggressively upon the market, whose existence is not known to one stenographer out of fifty. Gentlemen, it is not charity to advertise in the shorthand magazines and especially in THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER, it is purely a matter of business. And on that basis we are now ready to talk to you about the year 1895.

We have taken up more space this time with this department than really belongs to us. There are several reasons: We were cut short last month, we had a great deal to say and last but not least, we felt in the best of humor because of the brilliant outlook for the magazine for the future. The clouds are rolling by and we feel that in spite of all we have said of a pessimistic nature and in spite of the facts that *do* exist, we are about to receive some returns for the expenditure of time, money and energy spent on THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER. The next number will be given over to our friends and they will interest, entertain and instruct you.



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WORLD'S CONGRESS OF STENOGRAPHERS.

The World's Congress of Stenographers held in Chicago, July, 1893, was the most important gathering of stenographers ever held at any time or place. Every student, teacher, amanuensis, reporter or other person interested in stenography, should have a copy of the report of the proceedings. A complete report has been issued by THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER CO., Chicago. It contains every paper read there, with portrait and sketch of the life of the author of each as well as the discussions on the different papers, resolutions passed, etc. It is safe to say that there is no other publication in existence that contains so much general information on shorthand and typewriting as this report. It is handsomely bound in blue silk cloth, with gold stamped title, and sells in that form for only $1.25. It may be had in paper binding for 75 cents.

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Stenographic Journalism - - - - - C. H. Rush.
The Universal Association of Stenographers - J. Gale Needham.

THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER CO., Chicago.

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Our Album of Prominent Stenographers

Will contain the Portraits, Facsimile Notes and Sketches of the Lives of Fifty Prominent Reporters, Teachers, Authors and Amanuenses. . . . . .

It will be printed on heavy enamel paper and handsomely bound in cloth. Sold only by subscription and edition limited. . .

PRICE, $4.00.

If you wish a copy it will be necessary to order at once, although money need not be sent until book is ready for delivery. . .

ADDRESS,

THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER CO.

CHICAGO.

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BARGAIN :: SALE

A large number of DEMENT'S PITMANIC SHORTHAND,

Taken to satisfy a debt, will be sold at a sacrifice. Single copies $1.50, postpaid. Publisher's price $2.00. Special rates to schools and others desiring quantities.

Order now as they will not last long and we shall not handle them at all after this supply is exhausted.

Special Offer—To those who receive this copy of the magazine as a sample, the magazine will be sent one year and a copy of the book for $2.00, thus making the book just half price. Address,

THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER CO.,

153 Fifty-third Street, CHICAGO.

PUBLICATIONS, ETC.

Report of Proceedings of World's Congress of Stenographers. - -	$1 25
Report of Congress (same as above in paper binding). - - -	75
One Year's Subscription to the National Stenographer. - -	1 00
Day's Manual (Columbian Edition). - - - -	1 50
Isaac Pitman's Complete Instructor. - - - - - -	1 50
Bound Volume of The National Stenographer, Nos. II., III. and IV. each. - - - - - - -	3 00
Three Volumes. - - - - - - - - -	7 00
Andrews' Graded Sentence Book (Graham). - - - -	1 00
Album of Prominent Stenographers (Limited Edition). - -	4 00
(This album is a collection of portraits, notes and sketches of some of the most prominent people in the profession; it is printed on heavy book paper, handsomely bound in silk, and is sold only by subscription. Ready for delivery in Dec. '94. As the edition is limited, it will be necessary to order now).	
100 Lessons in Business (this is extensively advertised at $1). -	50

Address THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER CO., Chicago.

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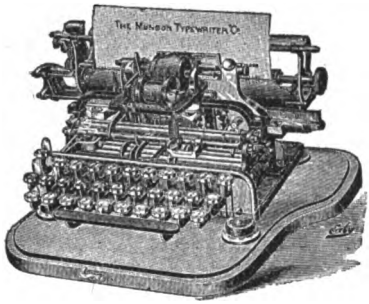
THE * * HIGHEST MEDAL
WORLD'S FAIR 1893
AWARDED TO THE
MUNSON TYPEWRITER



The most elastic and easy touch. Absolute alignment. Interchangeable Type-wheel. Write any language. Impossible to tell you the whole story here. Send us your address for a Catalogue giving full description and particulars.
PERFECT WORK.
THE MUNSON TYPEWRITER CO.
162 La Salle St., Chicago, Ill., U. S. A.

BAR-LOCK
VISIBLE WRITING
TYPEWRITER

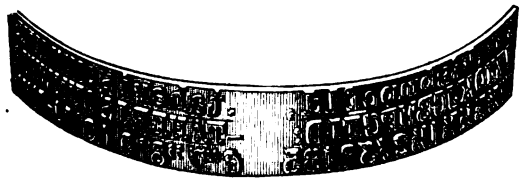
The best Typewriter is that one which enables the operator to produce the most work, of the finest quality, with the least effort, in the shortest time. The Franklin Institute awarded us the "John Scott medal for the most deserving" because the

1894 Bar-Lock does this.

Full details of its automatic movements mailed free.

The Columbia Typewriter Mfg. Co.
198 LaSalle St. CHICAGO.

Simplicity vs. Complexity



Hammond Type Shuttle Exact Size.

The "shuttle" illustrated above does not look as if it played a very important part in the construction of a typewriter, yet the principle involved in this little device, with its 90 characters, is the "keystone" of the wonderful popularity attained by the Hammond Typewriter since its introduction, and through its medium the Hammond is enabled to claim—

The Lightest Touch, Shortest Key Depression,
The Greatest Speed, Unequalled Wearing Qualities,
Absolutely Perfect and Permanent Alignment,
Instantly Interchangeable Type Shuttles,
Whereby Any Style or Size of Type, and All Languages may be written on one machine.

Send for descriptive circulars, question users of the Hammond, then give the machine a trial, and you will never part with it.

HAMMOND TYPEWRITER CO., 403-405 E. 62d St., NEW YORK.

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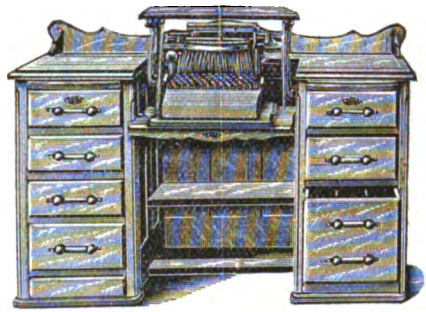
The Conde Typewriter Desk & Cabinet

Roll Top.



Flat Top.

THE ONLY First-class Combination Desk in the market. with patent Dust knife and Water-proof Curtain, built up panels and Writing Table.

One motion makes the change from Typewriter to Office Desk. The top comes up over Typewriter in a horizontal position, retaining the same space for papers or books as if down, a feature only possessed by the Conde Desk. It is made in Ten Styles, 5 Roll Top and 5 Flat Top. If you see the Conde you will appreciate the superiority over all others in the way of workmanship, finish and practicability for a general purpose desk. Send for Catalogue and Price list.

SHELBYVILLE LOUNGE & DESK CO., Shelbyville, Ind.

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DIPLOMA admits to the bar. Two years' course Improved methods, uniting Theory and Practice. Evening session for each class—students can be self-supporting while studying. Fall term begins September 3d.

Marshall D. Ewell, LL. D., M. D., Dean.
For catalogue address 621 Ashland Block, Chicago.

10 cts. per copy. *Edited by*
$1.00 per year. *Francis H. Hemperley.*

The Stenographer

BRIGHT. NEWSY. UNPREJUDICED.

Law Stenographers' Department.
Typewriting Department.
Shorthand Department—Presents leading systems.
64 Pages. Published Monthly. 12 pp. Shorthand each month. Send 2 c. for sample copy.
Stenographer Printing & Publishing Co.
38 S. Sixth Street, Philadelphia. Pa.

TYPEWRITER

RIBBON FOR 25 CENTS

Just to prove its quality; more at factory price. **The Reid Ribbon** is made of the finest material, with improved machinery, and by practical men; hundreds shipped daily. The quality towers high above the price.

A. S. REID & CO.
84 LA SALLE STREET, CHICAGO

THE EXPONENT.

For the most complete and practical Centering Table yet devised, send 25c. to N. D. HOWARD, Unity Building, Chicago. For sample of *The Exponent*, the Eclectic Shorthand Magazine, address the publisher,

J. G. CROSS,
Downer's Grove, Ill.

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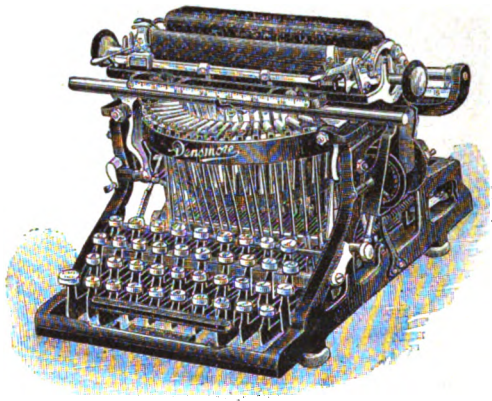
THE

DENSMORE!



"The World's Greatest Typewriter!"

Lightest touch, which means least fatigue.
With fewer parts than others attains more ends.
The material and workmanship insure durability.
Adopted by the United States War Department.

Free: Descriptive Pamphlet containing testimonials from leading concerns.

Densmore Typewriter Co., 202 Broadway, New York.

Chicago Office, 156 Adams Street.

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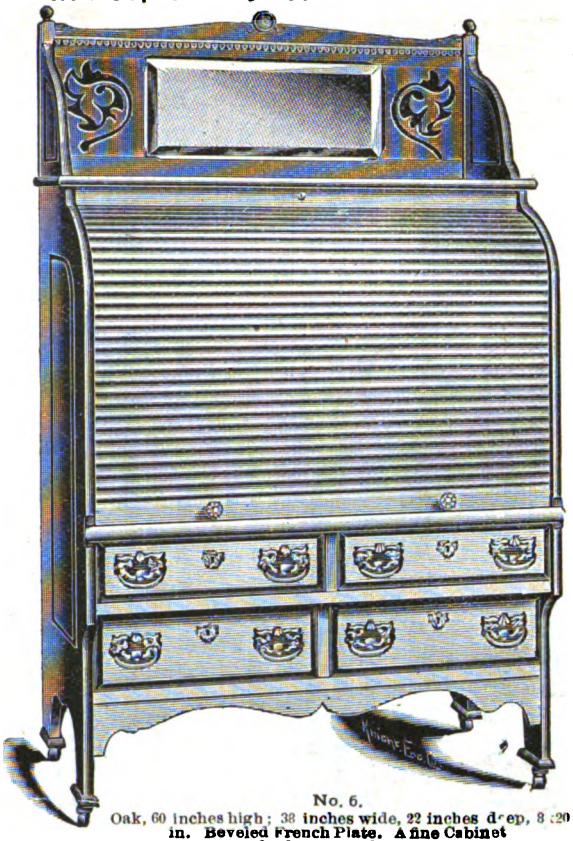
Roll Top Century Typewriter Cabinet.



No. 6.
Oak, 60 inches high; 38 inches wide, 22 inches deep, 8 :20 in. Beveled French Plate. A fine Cabinet for house or office use.

SOMETHING NEW

*

The Century Typewriter Cabinet.

*

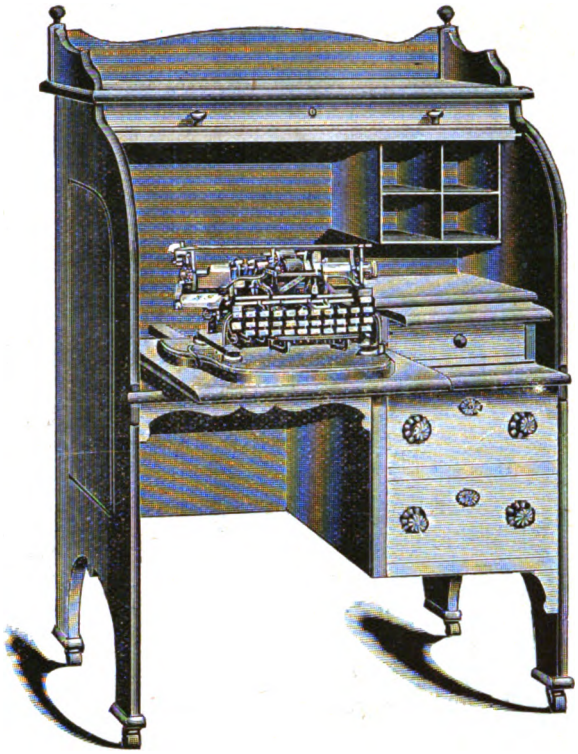
These Cabinets are made in several different patterns and sizes, and each one is made to take in any Typewriter made. They are Patented and made only by

Forest City Furniture Co.

ROCKFORD, ILLS.

Send for Catalogue.

Roll Top Century Typewriter Cabinet.



No. 8.
Oak (wax) owing Machine drawn out ready for use. This is the best me um rical, Ro Top Cabinet on the market. Finishe back and first-class Cabinet in every respect.

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Day's Complete Shorthand Manual.

COLUMBIAN REVISION. 16th Edition.

A full revision to date, and

THE VERY BEST SHORTHAND BOOK

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Is Only $1.50 at Retail.

And, bookseller or teacher, when you get a call for it (don't order it until then), remember it is published by

THE BURROWS BROS. COMPANY,

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Day's Complete Shorthand Manual.

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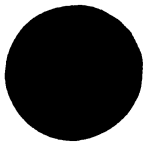

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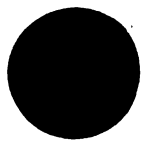

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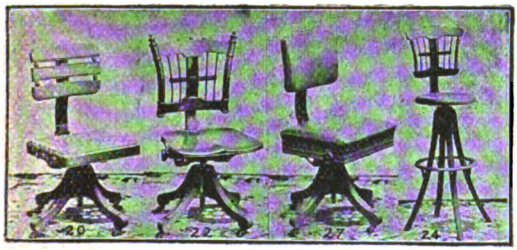

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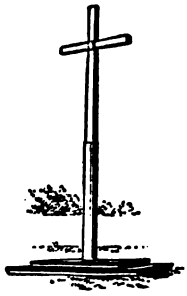

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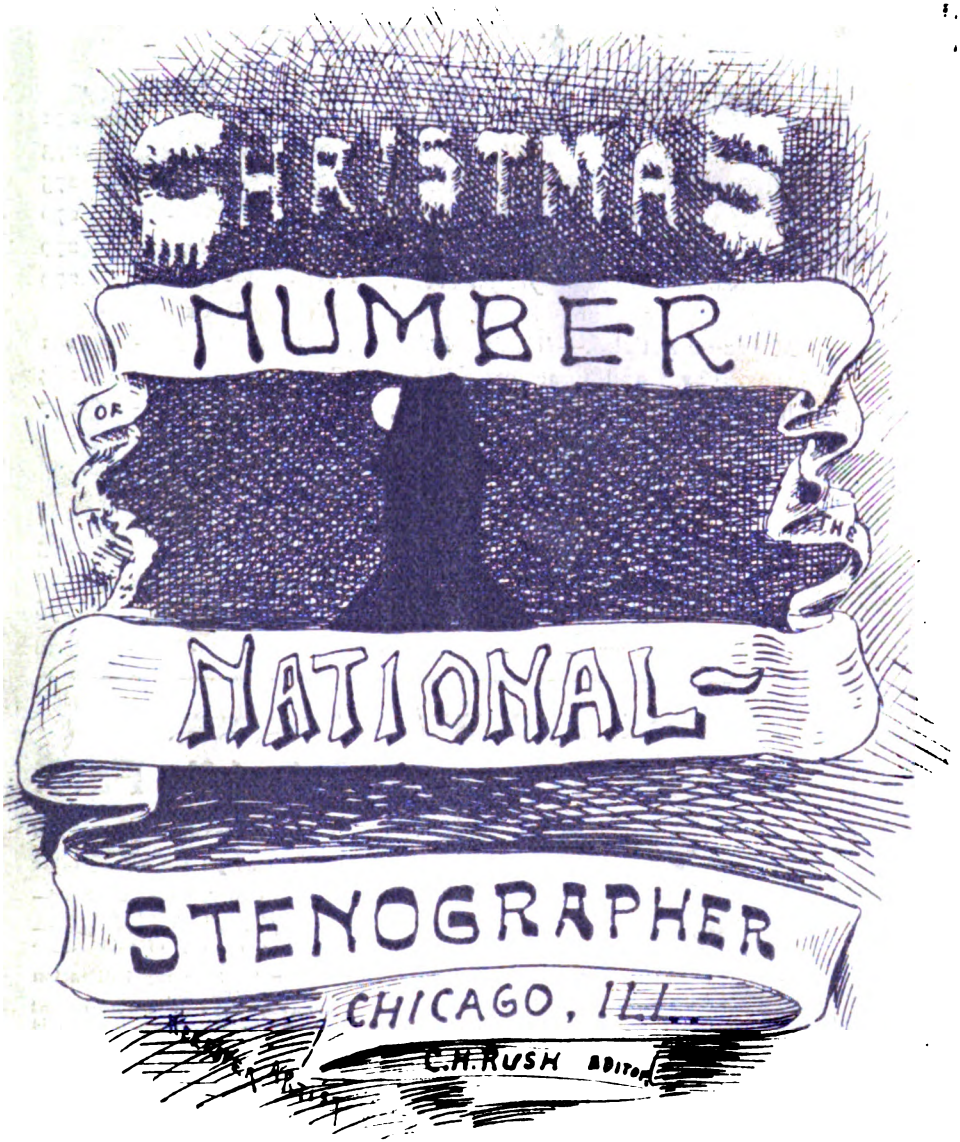

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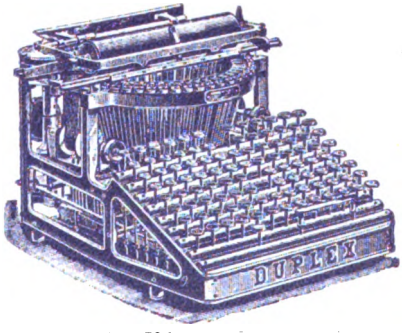

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THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER

VOL. V. DECEMBER, 1894. NO. 12.

SOME CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS.

S. H. EAST.

INTRODUCTORY.

"Who shames a scribbler? Break one cobweb through,
He spins the slight, self-pleasing thread anew;
Destroy his fib, or sophistry, in vain,
The creature's at his dirty work again."

I have been asked to write something for the Christmas number; but what shall I write about?

"He trudged along, unknowing what he sought,
And whistled as he went, for want of thought.

There is nothing new about shorthand to be said, so far as I know; and all the old things have been said so much better than I can say them that it is scarcely worth while for me to take up time or space with them. Still, truth is ever new, and the fundamental principles are so important, that they must be emphasized by repetition, even at the risk of being tedious. So I will venture a few words of advice to the young stenographer, for it is always easy to give advice.

"Of all the good things in this good world around us,
The one most abundantly furnished and found us
And which, for that reason, we least care about,
And can best spare our friends, is good counsel, no doubt."

PREPARATORY.

When the traveler seeks to make a trip over the Alps, he considers carefully what will be necessary for the journey. In the first place, he must select an experienced and reliable guide. He must provide himself with comfortable clothing and the necessary implements for climbing over ice-covered rocks and slippery crags. Is there a suggestion here for the young shorthander? Is it worth while looking ahead and considering the obstacles in the way and the best means of overcoming them? Is it worth while taking a little time to select a capable teacher, or a school which has the facilities for training competent stenographers?

Suppose you were going to have your teeth pulled and the dentist proceeded to use a pair of rusty, clumsy horse-shoe pincers; how would you like it? In plain, every-day language, you would "kick." Or, suppose, for example, you were going to have your head cut off, and the axe-man came

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forth with a dull, rusty, battered, worn-out axe. My opinion is that you would object right there and then. You would rather not have your head cut off at all than have it cut off with a dull axe, wouldn't you? Of course you would. And if you were a busy business man you would rather not have a stenographer at all than have a dull, rusty fellow who botched your work.

THE FIRST DAY IN SCHOOL.

When you enter school, determine to get the value of your money. You are investing capital and it is your business to see that you get a good profit. You have many things to learn beside the technical part of shorthand. You must cultivate business habits. Be in your place ready for work before school opens, and do not watch the clock for time to leave. This is one way of getting profit on your investment. Provide yourself with the proper books and stationery. If you use a pencil have it sharp; if you use a fountain pen have it filled. Work as faithfully nnd patiently as you would expect to in a well regulated business office. Learn how to learn. Concentrate your mind on the subject before you. You can acquire knowledge only by constant and persistent application. As far as possible systematize your work. Have a program of your daily routine so that when you are engaged on one subject your mind need not be detracted by thinking of something else which ought to be done, and in order that nothing be left undone. These are means of gaining a profit on your investment.

Another thing I want to whisper in your ear—keep the good will of your teacher. It will pay you to do it. An earnest teacher takes an honest pride in sending out good pupils, and he will necessarily take more interest in the pupil who appreciates his assistance, than in one who is indifferent.

A MATTER OF BUSINESS.

Let us look for a moment at this question of learning shorthand from a purely business standpoint. Suppose you learn it fairly well so that you are able to earn, say, five dollars a week to begin with, advancing to eight or ten in the course of a year—and there are many fairly good stenographers working at that price—a total of perhaps three hundred dollars for the first year—enough possibly to pay your board and buy your clothes if you live economically. Now, suppose before taking a situation you make yourself thoroughly competent. This need not require much additional time or expense, but only a more careful and intelligent use of the time and means you have; for it is my experience that the thoroughly competent stenographer is about as easily and quickly made as the fairly competent. Now you go to work at the ten dollars a week at the lowest estimate, advancing to fifteen during the year. Here then is a total of, say, six hundred dollars for the first year's earnings—a clear gain of three hundred dollars over the fairly competent stenographer, to say nothing of the extra ease with which you will do your work and the pleasure that comes from a sense of giving satisfaction.

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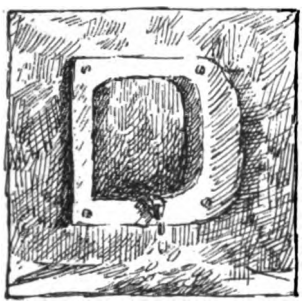
HOW TO BECOME COMPETENT.

Ah, here is a hard problem. You must solve it yourself. Others may lay down rules, but you must work out your own personal equations. You learned how to solve problems in school; apply the same arithmetic to this problem. An important element is, a clear conception of what you want to do. Aimlessness is the cause of much waste of time and energy. Map out the plan of your building, have the specifications drawn by a reliable architect, select good materials and employ only skilled workmen; then your structure will be substantial. Utilize the moments. Remember your time is going by at the rate of a minute every sixty seconds; and when the sun sets, that day will never return. Every day brings its own work, and what is not done to-day must forever remain undone. Read good literature—I should say, study good literature. Study words. Learn to think in a logical way and to express your ideas in clear language. You will thus be the better able to grasp and record the words of others. In short, apply to the acquisition of a knowledge of shorthand all the essentials to success in any other profession, and if you fail, it will be your misfortune, and not your fault.

IMPROVEMENT.

J. W. HARRELL.



DURING the past twenty-three hundred and seventy-four years, under titles of Brachygraphy, Bodiography, Semigraphy, Cryptography, Characterie, Tachygraphy, Zeiglography, Zeitography, Polyography, Radiography, Thoography, Stenography, Phonography, and all the varieties of Shorthand, such wonderful improvements have been made in the systems or methods used by our profession that perhaps the greatest improvements yet to be made are in the science of teaching.

That many of the systems used adequately meet all the requirements of the Amanuensis and Reporter is a fact long since established beyond question.

That persons of fair intelligence and education are capable of learning and successfully practicing them is a fact equally well established.

These facts have sustained schools teaching shorthand almost everywhere.

That *armies* of *incompetent stenographers* are turned out annually from these schools is another stubborn fact.

That many *intelligent* people attempt to learn, become discouraged and fail is also true.

That *incompetent stenographers* often work for *small salaries* is a logical truth.

That *cutting of salaries* threatens the welfare of all of the members of the profession with *poverty* is undoubtedly true.

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The great *necessity* seems to be COMPETENT STENOGRAPHERS.

Good stenographers may, (as some one has remarked of teachers,) be *born;* and doubtless *they are*. *Proof* of this would hardly be demanded because, as Thomas Paine once said: "it is not one of those things that admits of proof." But *occular and manual demonstration* would be required to establish such a fact as that persons were *born competent stenographers* or *teachers* or *either*. Teachers or stenographers would doubtless object to being defined as "things born," upon the ground that *too many other things are born*; though it could hardly be successfully denied that the *most important element* of the stenographer is *born*. We must have a human being. This is the first important material. We must then look to our grand educational institutions to prepare this material for the stenographic finish. We must then have a system of shorthand. One that has reached the highest standard of perfection. Then we have all the elements of a stenographer. The next step is to properly unite them; and at this stage the services of a *master* of the *science* of *teaching* are necessary.

Now, if all the systems, students and teachers of shorthand respectively were of a uniform standard, doubtless instead of such a variety of competent and incompetent stenographers, we would have uniform results.

The first great problem then, that stenographers have to deal with, appears to be the establishment of a *Standard System*; and the second is, doubtless, the development of the *Science of Teaching;* and lastly, the *Standard* for the *Degree* of *Stenographer*.

Of course the thought of a speedy and perfect cure of the evils that doubtless exist, and one that would simultaneously produce all other desired results, might very well be assigned its place in Eutopia; but gradual improvement can doubtless be made, and it is the sacred duty of every one of us to aid in this reformation.

I. The schools and teachers everywhere, and of whatever system, to honestly serve the *highest interests* of *themselves*, their *system*, their *students* and the *profession* by demonstrating the most wonderful possibilities of their *system* and their *work*, and requiring *unquestionable competency* of every student before graduation.

II. Stenographers everywhere to strive to reach the *highest degree of skill* in their profession, to assemble and interchange ideas of *improvements*, and in every way possible to advance the *greatest interests of stenographers*.

III. The Press to carry the glad tidings of *improvements* to stenographers everywhere, to advocate the *highest standard of perfection*, to point out the means of attaining it, and to stir up such a lively interest in *Shorthand Literature* as would give the public the benefit of the *best thoughts* of the *ablest members* of the profession.

When in this way the veil of secrecy has been removed, and the *people* are in a position to pass upon the merits of *systems* and *schools*, the Standard will no longer be a question. Then there will be one grand system of STANDARD PHONOGRAPHY, and a standard text book, which will be taught as an *essential branch* in all the schools and colleges everywhere. Then doubtless the true *Science of Teaching* will be developed, a *Standard* for *Stenographers* established, and incompetents rarely found.

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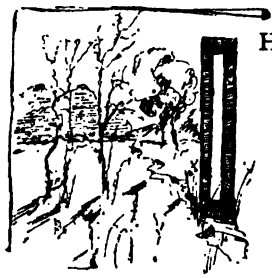
THE MISSING LINK IN SHORTHAND.

S. W. BLODGETT.



I HAVE read and heard a great deal about the missing link between man and the monkey. Many experts have attempted to account for its absence, and even to describe the nature and form of the animal with an elaborate encyclopædia of its evolution. In this respect, Mr. Darwin has enriched modern history through his research into the realm of speculation, even from the pre-historic age.

The art of shorthand writing and the systems involved and evolved is not exempt; for even at this time I learn that the missing link in shorthand can be supplied for the sum of one dollar. Wonderful age this! The practice of shorthand, like the law, is rapidly becoming involved in subtlety and mystification. As it is said of book making, there was no end, so of shorthand systems there seems to be no limit; each system as it comes forth claims some superiority, some superior advantages—ease in writing and ease of reading. In this there is no end of theory, no end to speculation; but, at the same time, as to success in this accomplishment, there is no beginning and no ending; it is unlimited. What a vast number of unknown quantities we have in this proposed problem! What a vast space there is between expectation and realization! As it has become a truism that of book making there is no end, so the lights in the shorthand firmament are as the stars in the heavens. The beginner is dazzled by the prospect, his mind is filled with joyous expectation as he is told of the ease of acquiring this great accomplishment. He is pointed to the emoluments and honors just ahead; to the brilliant men whose names are recorded on the pages of history, who have attained all this with ease and great celerity; in fact, it has been handed to them on a golden platter simply by being in position when it was passed around. He is taught that all this can be accomplished in a few weeks, yes, even in three short months. Such aspirants are taught to stand upon the ground of expectation and look steadily into the height of the brilliant, that dazzling region of realization. He is taught that: "In the bright lexicon of youth there is no such word as 'fail;'" that the maxim: "There is no excellence without great labor," has become obsolete, and never had application in shorthand writing.

Thus the ground is strewn with the wrecks of those who have attempted to pass from expectation to realization; because, being animals and not birds, they are compelled to walk, yes, to crawl at first, and found to their sorrow that this space, this missing link, was composed of education and adaptability. All the books in the world on phonography cannot supply this want. No system has yet been or ever will be perfected to such an extent as to supply that which the nature of the animal has never been gifted or endowed. Can a dog sing? No. Neither can an illiterate person. Can a duck swim? Yes, naturally. A human being can neither sing nor swim

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naturally. Man is the most helpless thing created; from the cradle to the grave he is not self supporting. All he obtains is by assistance, either from others, or the adventitious aid of education; and even the application of what he knows depends upon the strength of mind, and the direction given to it. No royal road to knowledge has been laid out before him. By the dictation of his Creator he earns his bread by the sweat of his brow, (or else steals it, and even then at the end he has to sweat for it; either that or be made to smoke for it.)

We have it in our power to elevate our profession. To do this the eternal principles on which truth is founded must be adhered to. It matters not how varied are the fields into which this science is introduced, this is the real missing link, that people are deceived, and instead of being "Advertized by our loving friends," we are cast down and overthrown by the multitude of bad counselors. Any one of the standard systems is good enough to the person who recognizes the work before him, and each and every one of them fail to the person who is looking for a "soft snap." To all who have the idea that this great accomplishment can be attained without great study and practice, I say; Beware of the missing link! If any one is expecting to stand upon the sands of this vast sea and launch his little boat and keep close to the shore, he must be contented with small fish. Of the stenographer who has attained success in this world, and has passed to the shore of the Unknown world, it can well be said in the language of the greatest poet,—"His life was gentle, and the elements so mixed in him, that nature might stand up and say to all the world: This was a man!" This profession is open to the women of our land. No true man would take from them a single honor, or place in their pathway a single obstruction to the highest and most remunerative positions obtained by real worth and merit. To them I bid a hearty welcome. To all we say: "There is no royal road," but success lies at the end of a journey beset with trial, toil and many sad disappointments.

OFFICIAL REPORTING IN IOWA.

W. E. CODY.

THE Iowa Legislature at its session of 1872, recognizing the value of the shorthand reporter in the courts, passed a law authorizing the Judges of the District Courts to appoint a shorthand writer "wherever it will expedite the public business, who shall be well skilled in the art, and competent to discharge the duties required, for the purpose of recording oral testimony in civil cases, when requested by either party thereto, and in all criminal cases tried upon indictment." This act received the approval of the Governor April 23, 1872, and became effective

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on its publication one week later. Through oversight, it did not provide for like appointments in the Circuit Court—a court of concurrent jurisdiction except as to criminal matters, and later in the same session an amendatory Act was passed giving like authority to the Circuit Judges, which also received the approval of the Executive and became effective May 1, 1872. The compensation was fixed at a rate not exceeding $8 per diem for attendance, to be fixed by the Judge making the appointment, and allowed ten cents per folio for transcript. The law as originally enacted still remains in force, except as to the clause fixing the compensation, which, unluckily for the profession, attracted the attention of some member of the so-called "Granger" legislature, some years since, and the compensation was reduced to $6 per diem with an allowance of six cents per folio. I might say in this connection, that the judges, so far as my knowledge extends, have invariably allowed the maximum rate authorized by law.

Under this law, appointments were promptly made in the twelve districts and twenty-four circuits then existing, and since that time the official shorthand reporter has been a permanent fixture of the Iowa courts. Later, the establishment of superior courts was authorized in cities having a population of 7,000, but the law not being mandatory, only four such courts have been created. The judges of the Superior courts may also appoint an official reporter, the salary being fixed at $5 per diem. January 1, 1887, the circuit courts were abolished, the State re-districted, and there are now 49 judges with a like number of reporters.

In making the appointment of reporter, the judge exercises his personal choice, but having been a practitioner at the bar, recognizes the necessity and value of a capable reporter, and merit, only, is usually the controlling influence in making the selection. Fortunately for the shorthand and legal profession, as well, there has been but little disposition to disturb a competent reporter in his position. It has never been regarded as a political office. While no examination as to speed, such as is required in other States, is necessary here before appointment, and though it might in a measure, appear self-laudatory, yet I venture the opinion that as high a standard is required generally as is found elsewhere, by reason of the fact that the responsibility of the appointment rests wholly upon the court. Incompetent court reporters are soon discovered and their inefficiency exposed to the critical eye of the court and counsel. Scarcely an hour passes but what he is called upon to read questions and answers, and notwithstanding the notions of some people to the contrary, testimony cannot be accurately read unless accurately taken, and inaccuracies and omissions thus quickly detected, would not be tolerated by the court. The statute provides "the reporter may be removed from office by the judge appointing, for misconduct, incapacity or inattention to duty," and while there is no fixed tenure of office it is generally assumed that the term expires with the term of the judge under whom he is serving.

The reporter attends the courts in the counties over which his judge presides, and as they are required to preside in the several counties of the district, it necessitates considerable travel. There exists no prohibition against the appointment of lady "officials," and the fair sex have lost no

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time in invading this field, a few years since popularly supposed to belong exclusively to the "horrid" men. So far as I have learned, they have performed their work well, too, and while cheerfully conceding to them reportorial skill and ability equal in all respects to that of their brother workers, still, it seems to me, in view of the constant travel necessary outside of the larger cities, with the drudgery of the position, that the official work in Iowa, under present circumstances, cannot be an inviting field for them to enter.

The work to be performed by the reporter is recognized to be of great importance, and every facility is furnished him that it may be well done. In this instance, at least, he is provided with a "front" seat and a special table for his use, placed in the most advantageous position for hearing the court, counsel and witness. His duty requires him to take the questions of counsel, answers of the witness, and the rulings and remarks of the court, together with the full objections of counsel, and motions made in connection with the case. It is not his duty, nor is it customary to take the argument of counsel in support of objections, though this is sometimes done, as a matter of precaution, as it is difficult oftentimes to determine when the objection ends and the argument begins. No report is made of the opening statements of counsel, but in the last few years a custom has grown up among the legal profession of having the closing arguments in important criminal cases, and in actions for damages against railroad and other corporations reported by the official reporter. This work is not regarded as being required of him under his statutory duties, and therefore an extra charge is made for such service. Reports are made almost invariably with pen and ink, though these are, of course, a few well known exceptions, and are filed with the clerk of the court in the county in which they are taken. If the reporter is engaged one day for instance, in reporting a case, $6 is taxed up as costs in the case for such service, to be paid by the litigants to the county, and the reporter is paid his per diem direct from the county treasury, on the certificate of the Judge.

The Judges are required to deliver all instructions to juries in writing, and as it expedites the business of the court, it is usually their practice to dictate them to the reporters, either directly upon the typewriter, or have them taken in shorthand and afterwards transcribed, during the argument of the case to the jury.

The salary of the reporter, a feature deserving of some attention, and a subject always of interest to the profession is primarily dependent upon the number of days the court, to which he is attached, is actually in session, which varies very much in the different districts, according to the amount of business to be transacted. The courts usually open the first Monday in January, continuing until about the middle of June, resuming again the latter part of August and closing about Christmas time. In general terms it may be stated that 200 or 225 days, would be a good average for the reporter, though of course the judges are employed much longer than that with work in chambers, in the examination and determination of cases submitted during term time. The per diem of the reporter, however, is limited to the number of days court is in session for the transaction of general business. To this of course is added transcript fees, always an uncertain quant-

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ity, running from $500 to possibly $1200 for the year. From investigations that I have made on this subject, I am led to conclude that gross salaries run from $1,500 to $2,000, as a general thing, while a very few reporters, located in the larger cities, with opportunities for doing outside work, may swell their income to $2,500. The rule adopted a few years ago requiring the testimony in all equity cases to be taken out of court, has worked to the advantage and disadvantage of the official; if appointed by the court as commissioner to take the testimony, which is usually the case, unless counsel request the appointment of some one else, it insures a transcript in all equity cases, while if the appointment goes elsewhere, the business is wholly lost. As a rule, the bulk and better class of work usually falls to the official reporter, particularly if he is in good standing with the bar.

COMBINING OF PRINCIPLES IN SHORTHAND.

CARRIE A. CLARKE.

A great deal has been said by the reporter, the teacher and the amanuensis, for and against combining or phrasing. The following combination of principles in "shorthand" is of inestimable value, and as they can be adopted by students of all systems, by the expert as well as the beginner, I offer them with the hope that they may be of some benefit to the profession. Be:

S Sensible,
H Honest,
O Orderly,
R Resolute,
T Truthful,
H Helpful,
A Accurate,
N Neat,
D Dignified.

SHORTHAND OF SHORTHAND.

JOSEPH COVER.

Editor National Stenographer.

DEAR SIR:—I send you a specimen of my shorthand of shorthand—on the first line of this letter. There are sixty words represented by these few characters which I have put in about ⅓ of an inch, 8 which can be written easily in ¼ of an inch in about 5 seconds. These signs are practical and in use by me every day in Court reporting. My notes are all read and tran-

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scribed by another person, including these signs in constant use I have a large number of expedients for reporters only. They would be only available for writers of the Graham or Pitman system, or similar systems, and would not conflict with word signs in those systems. The fact is, court reporters expend a great deal of useless energy upon common phrases, in constant use, which might be represented by a tick—a movement so slight that an ordinary observer would not know that anything was written. Then, there are combinations of common words that can be "ticked" by an arbitrary sign, when writing them in the midst of a sentence. These can be acquired with ease by a practical reporter, by taking them up one at a time, and thus adopting them.

The dash under the line "yes sir" being in the line of the action of the hand, is easier made than the downward dash on the line for "no sir" They are much easier than the old forms.

Again, I use three dots for immaterial, irrelevant and incompetent, and one dot for immaterial. Overruled is indicated by an upward dash.

I have said enough perhaps to show you that shorthand for reporters who have become reporters in fact, can be very much simplified and with signs that are so totally different from the rest of the signs of the system that a glance of the eye can detect them in reading, and that can be made in the twinkling of an eye.

I have now been a court reporter for twenty years, nearly fifteen of this a court reporter and four years a reporter of Committee investigations by the U. S. Senate.

I would say that just twenty years ago Ike Dement and myself took the crooked and winding profession of shorthand together in his brother's office at Chicago, W. H. Dement. We then took dictation and wrote it out in longhand, for those were not the days of typewriters. Ike——— well Ike wasn't quite as fast as he is now. Boyer was then one of the office, and as good a reporter as he is to-day; and Gray and Hewitt and John Ritchie—who used to come in and announce to the boys that "another verbat reporter has come to town, boys," whereupon a horse laugh would go up, as every new verbat reporter went down in actual battle; and then there was Frank Wood and Lundstrom, and Lizzie Payne, the fastest longhand writer I ever saw. But if I get to reminiscing about the days of '74 I will take up your entire magazine. At another time I may come again.

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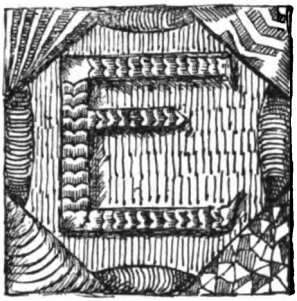
THE STENOGRAPHER AS AN AID TO AUTHORS IN WRITING BOOKS AND MAGAZINE ARTICLES.

WILLIAM WHITFORD.



EVERY now and then the services of the professional stenographer are called into requisition in assisting authors in the preparation of their manuscript for publication. This will be a pleasing diversion to him from the usual routine of his professional work, and will materially add to his storehouse of knowledge. If he is ever on the alert to imbibe "the thoughts that breathe and the words that burn," he will endeavor to follow the author's train of thought as closely as possible and get as large fund of information out of the various dictations; but if he simply does his work mechanically, pays little or no attention whatever to the arrangement, the ideas, the phraseology, the style of the author, the process will be a tedious one to him.

The writer has had the pleasure of taking several books from author's dictation—medical, scientific and otherwise—and perhaps it will prove interesting to the readers of this journal to relate briefly the methods of different men.

One author sat at his desk with his memoranda and various books spread out before him, a separate table being provided for the stenographer. The dictation was very deliberate, the author being painstaking to clothe his ideas in such choice language as to necessitate but little revision of the typewritten transcript when handed in. Occasionally he would call upon the stenographer to refer back and to read over a few sentences either to avoid repetition, or to get the thread of his narrative. Quotations from books were read quite rapidly, and here let me say, it behooves the stenographer to be unusually painstaking to record the exact words, for the omission of an important word and the substitution of a wrong one may lead to serious misinterpretation. Occasionally, if a quotation should happen to be a long one, the stenographer is permitted to take the book along with him from which it was taken, but in a large number of instances so many books are quoted from that the author would not care to have them taken from his library, because he may have occasion to use them in the meantime.

The rate at which chapters of books are dictated must of necessity largely depend upon the familiarity of the author with his subject, his volubility of speech, and mastery of the English language. Some authors for whom the writer has taken dictation would dispose of a chapter at one sitting; while others would proceed slowly, cautiously, and with considerable hesitation, making material changes in the text here and there, and would not average more than from two to three thousand words an hour. Sometimes great alterations are made in the formation of the original sentences,

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and when this is the case, the stenographer should see that he eliminates the mutilated fragments of the old sentences in order to avoid confusion in the transcription of his notes.

Some authors pace up and down and gesticulate while dictating; while others use very few gestures, but sit at a table and confine themselves strictly to the memoranda and books before them.

One of the most fluent dictators of books and magazine articles that it has been my experience to meet is Dr. G. Frank Lydston, of this city, whose books and various contributions to periodical medical literature have a wide and enduring popularity. They are widely read and very extensively quoted. Dr. Lydston ranks with the ablest journalists, and paragraphs of his writings may be found in which the grace and elegance of Addison are combined with Gibbon's brilliancy. The arrangement of his books and articles is systematic; his style is clear, comprehensive, racy and entertaining, and the subjects are thoroughly treated. The first draught of his dictations need very little revision.

We recall to mind a prominent newspaper correspondent who was capable of dictating three or four columns an hour of excellent reading matter for the public; and in so doing would play with the buttons of his vest. Nothing would displease him more than to be interrupted in the midst of dictating. Many a story I have taken from his dictation. He had his points well formulated in his mind, thoroughly classified, and methodically arranged before he commenced to dictate.

The late James G. Blaine maintained that no work of great literary excellence could be dictated; but we know of books that have been dictated to stenographers which have had a more extensive sale than "Blaine's Twenty Years in Congress."

It is true, that dictating is quite an art, and some of our best authors do not and cannot do it with any degree of satisfaction. The same holds true with reference to public speaking. We have men who "write like angels, but who speak like poor polls."

Again, authors in consulting the literature of foreign languages in the preparation of books occasionally require the services of stenographers to dictate rapidly such passages as they care to utilize. In this way, they can accomplish much more work than by following the old method of *grinding* out line after line in longhand and burning the midnight oil.

The writer on one occasion spent nearly a whole night taking dictation for three distinguished physicians in this city who were consulting French, German, Spanish and Italian literature for available material to incorporate into a book which they had in preparation. It was four o'clock in the morning when this trio of intellectual giants dispersed. The "take" numbered 150 pages of shorthand.

It seems to me, this method of utilizing the services of stenographers is so eminently practical as to commend itself to all those who contemplate the preparation of books or lengthy magazine articles.

With regard to the methods of the old authors, we are told that Dr. Johnson advised rapid composition after outlining, and Southey advocated the writing of thoughts as they occurred to be corrected at leisure. Ma-

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caulay sketched a general plan with lines far apart, and then filled in sentence after sentence. When he thought no change could be made for the better, the matter was copied for the printer. Johnson adopted a similar method in writing the articles which made the *Rambler* famous. Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett, the novelist, writes with a dull pencil on sheets of different sizes and texture, and usually pursues her work in the breakfast room amid the prattle of her children. Henry James, Jr., corrects and revises the sentences until they are illegible to everyone except himself. He holds to the idea that the mind is most inclined to steady work during night hours and believes, "that there few really great thoughts, such as the world will not willingly let die, which have not been conceived under the quiet stars."

It is said that "Ouida" works dressed in the style of the ladies of which she writes. George Eliot wrote descriptions while she walked about places she depicted. Her idea of the best time to write was before breakfast. Dickens tramped about in his room and dictated to a secretary. We are informed that Thackeray wrote best in a railroad train.

As far as the revision of the first draught of typewritten transcript is concerned, in my experience I have found (where the author was unusually precise and painstaking in his work) no more changes in it than if the author had done the work without the aid of a stenographer. I am well aware that some of our standard and most eminent authors have revised and rerevised their manuscripts before submitting them for publication, and even then the services of stenographers were not invoked in a great many instances. Many journalists claim that great literary excellence can only be obtained by careful revision.

The methods of the older authors differed very materially, and they are applicable to authors of the present day. An inspection of Dickens' manuscripts in the South Kensington museum (which the writer saw in 1891) reveals the fact that he was a careful writer and spared no pains in correcting sentences so as to render them effective. Sir Isaac Newton rewrote his "Chronology" fifteen times. De Quincy revised some portions of his "Confessions of an Opium Eater" sixty times. Gibbon went over his "Memoir" nine times and spent twenty-three years on his "History of the Roman Empire." Pope kept his manuscripts a year or so before sending them to a publisher. Macaulay worked nineteen days on thirty pages and ended with dissatisfaction at the result. Balzac, the great French novelist, frequently devoted a week to a page, and seemed ever ready to make an alteration.

It should be the aim of every author to appear to the best possible advantage in print. In the days of the old authors shorthand writing had not advanced to its present state of perfection, nor were the services of stenographers utilized so extensively as they are to-day for commercial, political, literary and other purposes, or surely the brilliant intellects of the past would have availed themselves of them.

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"PHONOGRAPHY" AND FONETICS.

ELIZA B. BURNZ.

Speld in accordance with the shortend spellings of the Appendix to the Century Dictionary.

Until about forty years ago there wer comparativly few writers of shorthand; and most of them wer amateurs, who cultivated the art thru admiration of it and for personal uses alone. Professional stenografers wer scarse then; now their number is legion. Twenty-five years ago the number of women in New York who wrote shorthand could be counted on the fingers of one hand, now the hairs of one's head would hardly number them.

Without investigating the causes which hav brought stenografy into the front rank as a profession, it may be truthfully said that the first great impetus toward making the study of shorthand a popular one was given by Isaac Pitman of England, when, in 1840, he publisht a new method entitled "Phonography"—that is, writing based on sound. Insted of taking the common alfabet of twenty-six letters as a foundation for his characters, he analyzed the English language into its elementary sounds (as had been done in Walker's dictionary) and assigned a simple line, straight or curved, upright, oblique or horizontal, light or hevy, to represent each of the elementary sounds. By this means the student of Phonography coud not avoid becoming possessed of the knowledge that the spoken English is composed of about forty units of sound. In bringing this fonetic analysis home to the apprehension of the common people thru the study of Phonography, Isaac Pitman achievd a far greater work than was the mere invention of a new system of shorthand. He laid the foundation for the greatest educational reform which the world has seen since the invention of printing; the greatest labor saving device ever offerd to English readers and writers. It is the fundamental principl of Phonography applied to the written and printed language. If the straight lines and curves of Phonography, each being uzed for a certain sound, exactly, and unmistakably represent a spoken word, why cannot this fonetic principl be applied to the letters of the English alfabet, and so modify the use of the alfabet that its letters wil be made to represent invariably the same sound; and not, as now, each letter denote from one to seven sounds, and then be often silent and perfectly useless. With a sufficient alfabet all the weary labor of lerning to spel while at scool would be at an end, as wel as the hindrances and vexations consequent on the dout we often feel in regard to our spelling when scool life is ended. The incubus of an orthografy that defies reason at every step can but tend to make children stupid, unreasoning, and dependent on authority alone.

The "Word Method" of teaching the children to read has nearly supplanted the old A B C plan. But when we examin this word method closely, it amounts to the Chinese representation of language. The combined letters form a picture of an idea, just as do the Chinese characters. Stil, an effort is made by authors and teachers not to lose sight entirely of the assumption, (which is but very partially a fact,) that the letters of our al-

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fabet ar designed to represent the spoken elements of the English language; and so fonetic teaching is brought in to a limited extent in primers and first readers in connection with the word-method. In our city scools the children are drild on sound as connected with letters. But far better work would be accomplishd if the littl children wer exercised on the elements of the spoken language for several weeks or months before they ar introduced to letters. The kindergarten is the place where this fonic dril should begin. Pupils should be taught to resolv the simpl words they use into their elementary sounds, and to place the organs of speech in the proper position so as to utter each sound plainly. Thus, clear articulation would be secured as a preparation for learning to read, and foren and provincial inaccuracies be corrected. This fonic dril is invaluabl in producing distinct speaking and reading, and it should be continued up thru the primary and grammar grades. Five minutes daily should be given to fonetic dril in each grade, until the sixth grade children hav no more difficulty in analyzing the word "incomprehensibility" into its sound elements, than the littl kintergarteners hav in telling the sounds in the words "so" or "cat."

And what besides clear articulation wil such thoro fonic teaching bring? It wil awaken attention to the vast difference which exists between the simpl *spoken* English and the unreasonabl, even outrageous, written and printed. A simplification of the present spelling is conceded by all thoughtful educators to be a necessity, if we expect to educate the rising generation in its entirety,—that is all children, white, colored, native and foreign-born; and while teaching these children to read and write, find time also to teach them the duties of good citizenship. At present, lerning to spel crowds out this paramount object of education, the making of good citizens.

Of late, educators hav been looking towards Germany, for light on methods of education. They wil gain littl, until they go to the root of the matter, and see how German children ar taught to read. The German child lerns to read and write as wel in one year as the American child does in three, and afterwards it has no further trubl in applying the art of reading and writing to higher studies. It has not to spel, spel, spel, until the last day of grammar scool and then fail on the spelling examination for college. The English language is close kin to the German. The German finding that the sounds in their language number more than the singl letters in the alfabet, after assigning to each letter a specific sound, mark sum letters with diacritics or combine two letters to form a digraf, and thus bring the characters of the alfabet to a sufficient number to represent the language fonetically. What is to hinder English spelling being made fonetic on the same basis? This is the Anglo-American plan, as it is calld, and produces a script and print which so closely resemble the modes in present use, that the new and the old can be used interchangeably for business or correspondence.

So much for the common sense and feasibility of the simplification of spelling in the future. For the present, teachers, should be urgd to acquaint themselvs thoroly with English fonetics; to cultivate their own ears and the ears of their pupils, so that they can discriminate language sounds quite independently of letters; and, by carefully perusing the best literature on the subject, investigate the advantages and feasibility of revised spelling.

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It wil be wel also for teachers to frankly acknowledge to their pupils that the written language is in a sad tangl, owing to the ignorance and prejudices of our forefathers, and to tel them that it takes a long time to undo such a tangl and lay all the threds straight. That for the present, the needs of the business world make lerning to spel by the dictionary a necessity, but that useless letters at the end of words ar being alredy left off. Therefore don't mark as errors the omission of *me* in "program," *te* in "gazet," *ue* in "dialog," or the final *e* after a short vowel, as in 'definit." If pupils use *f* for *ph* in "frenology," it is in analogy with "frenzy," and the use of æ, and œ as in "æsthetic" ar well substituted by *e*. These shorter spellings have the authority of the Philological Association of England and America, and Congress has been petitiond to incorporate them in Congressional printing.

An excellent way for the indroduction of fonetic spelling in the future would be to use elementary instruction books—primers and readers—that would carry the pronunciation on the face of the printed words without new letters, or for the present, at all interfering with the ordinary spelling. Dr. Leigh's, "Pronouncing Orthography," so successfully used for many years in the St. Louis Scools, and for a short time, fifteen years ago, in a few of the New York Scools, had this object in view. But Leigh's process is too cumbersome, necessitating the learning of nearly a hundred differently shaped letters. The Pronouncing Print recently devised, is much simpler in detail, and promises an almost royal road for the feet of littl children in gaining what Prof. Martineau has termd "the most difficult of human attainments," namely, lerning to read.

BURNZ PRONOUNCING PRINT.

Of dọ̈ dọne wąs c̣ity bụs̱y
sąys̱ eȳe ẇ̆one bi̱rd thę̣y āġe
ēat hīgh knōw ūs̱e ärę tą̣lk

A specimen of this print is given above. It accomplishes the long desired object of representing the exact pronunciation of words without changing the ordinary spelling or introducing any new letters. The twenty-six letters of our alphabet ar employed with their most common significations. The digraphs, *th*, *ch*, *sh*, *ng*, represent single sounds as they do now. The vowel letters, unmarked, denote their short sounds as in *at*, *ebb*, *it*, *on*, *up*. When the vowel letters represent other sounds than these, they hav diacritic marks over or under them in accordance with Webster's dictionary. In our perverse spelling, it often happens that letters ar very exceptionally used; they ar placed for other sounds than those they commonly stand for; for instance, *o* is used for *oo* in *do*, and also for *u* in *done*, which is sounded just as *dun* is; *s* is used when the sound is *z*. In such cases, a smal letter which indicates the true sound is placed under the letter which gives a wrong sound. Then the numerous silent letters, as *ugh* in *through*, the useless final *e* in *give*, and many others, are denoted by very light type, indi-

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cating that they are not to be sounded. By these devices of Pronouncing Print the common spelling is made fonetic to the eye, and so soon as the alfabet of forty sounds is masterd the child or forener can read correctly and without hesitation. It has been proved that children taught with a pronouncing print accomplish the task of reading ordinary books in half the time generally required. See the lettr of Dr. Wm. T. Harris, Commissioner of Education prefixed to "Circular of Information No. 8, 1893," which gives a history of the spelling reform movement, and also the list of fifteen hundred shortend spellings authorized by the English and American Philological Societies, and embodied in the Century and Standard dictionaries. "Circular 8," is sent free to any address, on request to the Bureau of Education, Washington, D. C.

APATHY OF STENOGRAPHERS.

I. F. CRAIG.

I NOTICE with satisfaction that in the last number of THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER, Bro. Williamson has something to say on the above subject.

I felt what he describes on reading the editor's talk in the preceding number, and I thought then I would vent my pent up feelings on this subject. My feelings were expressible in two words, but as the expression is probably more forcible than elegant, I thought it more advisable to keep silence unless I could put matters in more presentable form.

How a stenographer can look over the Report of the World's Congress of Stenographers, and not want one, is more than I can comprehend. It has given me unlimited pleasure to read it, and whenever I am tired now, and my enthusiasm is at low ebb, it relieves me to read the ideas of others expressed in their articles. I was not fortunate enough to be present at that greatest of all meetings of stenographrers in Chicago, but if I had been and had heard every article that is presented in the report I should still want one for the sake of association and reflection. As it is I have read each article many times, and with the same relish as on first reading the work about a year ago.

It is also the same with shorthand periodicals. It increases ones liking for the work to read the very valuable papers we now have printed in the interest of our profession.

I recently did some canvassing for different shorthand periodicals but my success was not very flattering, either to myself or to those upon whom I called. I presented the excellent features of the various publications, but each one seemed to have a different excuse for not subscribing, but the way they should have expressed themselves to suit the case, according to my idea would have been, "I am not a live stenographer, and up with the times, and consequently I have no use for shorthand publications." One dear girl

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told me that she once took a paper devoted to shorthand, (she had forgotten the name of it) when she was at school and immediately afterward, but the engraved shorthand was too advanced and she was unable to read it, so she let her subscription expire and never renewed. Now just for the reason that the engraved shorthand printed in that certain paper was a little too hard for her to read she gave up the idea of trying to rise to it, and let the paper go.

I found the case even more difficult with a bigoted young man who informed me that he took a certain shorthand publication, and that he thought it covered the entire ground, that it was entirely unnecessary for him to spend a dollar or two in other publications as he did not need them and would have no use for them, though he had time enough to read them as far as that was concerned. What wise acres!

It is really enough to make one ashamed to come in contact with such people and then realize that they call themselves, and are known as *stenographers.*!

I once met a young lady stenographer, who by the way is a very good amanuensis, who did not even know that there were papers published in the interest of shorthand. On showing her some copies of a publication devoted to her particular system of shorthand, and which had several pages of engraved shorthand which she was able to read, she was very much surprised, and being a plain, sensible girl, she took an immediate interest in them. She told me afterwards that from that time shorthand took a new form to her, and she did not regard it simply as a means of making a living. She subscribed for shorthand periodicals, read them, and I have no hesitancy in saying that she was undoubtedly a better stenographer for having come in contact with shorthand publications.

Shorthand publications can not fail to be of the utmost value to any one who cares to be anything but "ham" or a "plug." Nothing can increase a persons energy half as much as reading of the accomplishments of others, seeing their portraits and facsimiles of their work.

Come, shorthanders, it is time to wake up. You are sleeping away more than a third of your life, at best, and in your apparent waking hours you are in a semi sleep condition. It is high time you were waking. Send for a copy of THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER for November, turn to the list of shorthand publications given on page 266 and write for sample copies, and when you receive them, read them well, *study them*, and subscribe for at least three. You will find it really money in your pocket bearing a high rate of interest, strange as the statement may seem. Wake up to the fact that the world is moving, and if you do not keep up with the times there will soon be no demand for either you or your services. "Now is the time for all good men (and women) to come to the aid of the shorthand magazines."

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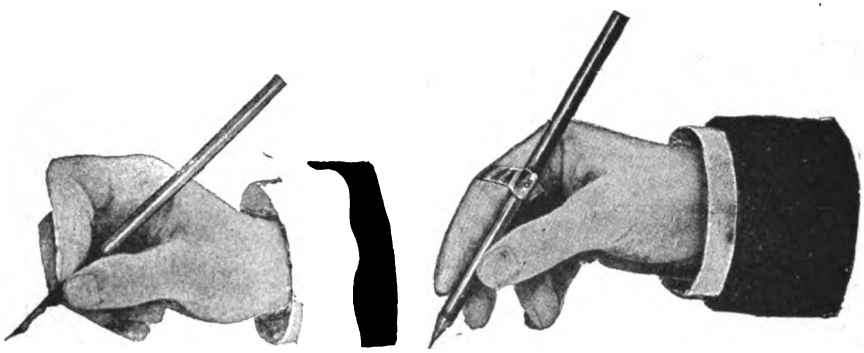
A CURE FOR WRITER'S CRAMP.

DR. RUDOLF TOMBO.

IF late the question of pen paralysis has been treated in different shorthand journals. I am greatly interested in this matter as I have frequently suffered from this evil. I have not been directly attacked by writer's cramp, but have repeatedly experienced such pain in the fingers after considerable stenographic work, that I have often been afraid of being overcome by it at any moment. Let me relate my latest experience in this respect in a few words.

On the 17, 18 and 19 of September, I had occasion to report the proceedings of the German Roman Catholic Zentral Verein of this country. Two sessions were held a day, one in the forenoon and one in the afternoon, each lasting about three hours. During recess my hand had no relief whatsoever as I was obliged to write out the transcription, there being no typewriter at hand. In the evening I dictated my notes to a typewriter. The strain had been so great that on the evening of the first day my fingers trembled, my hand seemed completely tired out, and I felt severe pains in my arms and back. This made me question whether I should be able to resume the work on the following morning. After a night's rest I felt some relief, and experienced but little annoyance in the forenoon session of the next day. In the afternoon meeting, however, the trouble of the day before reappeared, even more acutely. The third day was only a repetition of the former two.

U. S. Pat. Dec. 12th, 1893.



FORMERLY. NOW.

At that time I accidently noticed in a German paper an article calling attention to a useful invention by Mr. A. Lowy, (1 East 106th, St., New York) which claims to prevent writers cramp. I had an interview with the inventor, a practical teacher and specialist in penmanship, who has devoted

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a life-time to the solution of the problem how to rid children of the common evil of holding their pens with bent and cramped fingers, a circumstance so detrimental to the health of the child. After many years of trial and experiment, Mr. Lowy determined on a ring, which as is seen from the accompanying sketch, keeps the forefinger stretched while the guide attached to the ring compels the hand to hold the pen always in the same direction. This way of holding the pen also forces the writer to carry his body erect.

Mr. Lowy assured me that the use of his ring would undoubtedly relieve me immediately, and his statement was born out on trial. About a week after the experience mentioned above, I reported a political meeting which lasted about three hours. I used the Guide and was delighted to find that I did not experience the least trembling of the fingers, that my hand did not feel tired after the exertion, and that no pain was present in the arm or back. Since that time I have had frequent opportunities to employ the Pen Guide in reporting with always the same beneficial result.

As I am heartily interested in everything that concerns the welfare of the Stenographers, I consider it my duty to warmly recommend the use of the National Pen Guide to all members of the Shorthand Profession subject to writers cramp. Prevention is better than cure, and I should include those who have not yet experienced any sensations of approaching cramps, but who hold their pens incorrectly. It is my sincere wish to see the National Pen Guide introduced in all Public Schools, so that the whole nation might be benefited thereby. The study of Shorthand would then be rendered easier and more pleasant. I am firmly convinced that the frequent complaints made teachers that their pupils do not attain a greater speed, even after a thorough study of the system and many hours of practice, is often due to the mistake of the pupil in not holding the fingers correctly, to the want of a light hand. These complaints will disappear, I am sure, when every student of shorthand will have been taught from the very first to hold his hand correctly when writing.

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WANTED—A PRETTY GIRL, NO SALARY.

GEO. H. STIPP.

IN glancing over the classified advertisements of a big metropolitan daily, one can find a large amount of interesting literature and much food for thought. This is especially true in perusing the "Want Ads."

Very conspicuous in these columns is the young woman who trips the swift pen of phonography. It trips very often, by the way, and there is not always the swiftness of a slow going mule in its motion.

Not many moons ago, two quaint specimens of the steno-advertising art attracted my attention, One read in this manner:

> A PREPOSSESSING YOUNG LADY STENOgrapher, bookkeeper and general office assistant seeks position; small salary; will furnish typewriter. SILVER, box 3085, Examiner office.

The principal (?) qualification of this faithful mermidon of Labor was displayed in large type and given the first place in the recital of the advertiser's claims. "Prepossessing" would not only catch the eye, but immediately captivate the heart of the most obdurate male wanting, or not wanting, an "office assistant." Not satisfied with that most satisfying qualification (to masculinity) of being pretty, the next item of efficiency is stated. The lady is "young." Now what more could man want here below than an office (or home) assistant who is both young and prepossessing, unless it be that she should have a sweet temper and eat with a fork. But I look in vain for those important omissions. As if to recompense the lack of a sweet temper and a certain habit of eating, we are told that this lovely sylph-like naiad of the crystal spring of beauty and knowledge is a stenographer, a book-keeper and a general office assistant.

Alas! The charm of the situation flees with those words so suggestive of the grosser world where all sentiment is lacking and the air is redolent only with the noisome hum and whirl of business. Man's dream of love on a summer sea with a "prepossessing young lady" in the boat vanishes as the mists that gather like a thin veil for a few short moments before the rising sun.

How it jars the great sweat drops from the noble brow on the busy business man who reads this advertisement while lingering over his morning toast and coffee, to find in the next few words that this sweet little miss

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perorates with the assurance that she is willing to work for a small salary and will furnish a typewriter. Great Heavens! Is it not enough to have a prepossessing young lady stenographer, book-keeper and office assistant without considering the question of salary and furnishing our office with easy chairs, Smyrna rugs and the latest improved self-operating typewriters?

But what is a "small salary?" That depends on how you look at it. I imagine if some brave man should propose matrimony to this prepossessing young angel steno'ess she would insist that she could not possibly get along on less than $75 or $100 a month to keep her in clothes, primps and complexion. But, it is now a question of salary—"well, do you think $20 a month too much? If you do, I'll work for $15." Of course we think $20 entirely too much for one having her qualifications and furnishing a typewriter. We would not be good business men if we didn't. But we will be generous; aye, very generous in as much as she is prepossessing and young. We will give her $10 the first month with the promise of an increase to $15 if she will still be prepossessing and will promise never to grow old.

To cap the climax, our pretty advertiser signs herself "Silver." Now what is to be understood by that? Is she in favor of free silver? Is she an admirer of Grover's silver policy? Does she believe in the Bland silver bill? Does she desire her small salary in silver? I give it up and pass on to the next advertisement, which reads:

A YOUNG LADY DESIRES A POSITION AS stenographer; no salary; desires to get experience. Address L., box 892, Examiner office.

This lady is fortunately young, but unfortunately is not beautiful or she would have said so. She has not a dozen strings to her bow. She is simply a stenographer. She does not offer to furnish up the office ready for housekeeping and yet she is willing to work for "no salary" just to get "experience." It is said that experience is dear at any price but here is experience at no price. The experience is either esteemed very highly or not at all; it is worth much or nothing. Which is it? Will some of our prepossessing lady stenographers please rise and explain.

Now I suppose this young lady would turn very red in the face and rise in wrath if any one were to inquire how she would manage to live honestly on "no salary." Perhaps she is too young to see that she is imputing her own character or else is publishing abroad her imposition on other people. If some relatives or friends support her during her search for experience, she is committing a double wrong. She is keeping some other poor girl (or possibly a man with a wife and babies) from earning a living, and then making of herself an object of charity in exacting food and raiment of father or brother while she works for some other grasping man's profit. And this she calls "independence."

As to the reasons or necessities for these young women working for "no salary" and "small salary" urging their qualifications of being "young" and "prepossessing" and offering to furnish typewriters or other office accessories, I will write in another paper. I here venture to say, however, that if girl stenographers will devote as much time to cultivating their "ability" as to cultivating their good looks, there would be no need of advertising their charms or working for "no salary."

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E. S. WILLIAMSON, TORONTO.

THIS month we present a Canadian face to our readers, that of Mr. E. S. Williamson, Secretary to the Assistant Commissioner of Crown Lands, Toronto. As the accompanying photo shows, Mr. Williamson is one of the younger members of the profession, being in his 24th year. He took up the study of Isaac Pitman's shorthand at the age of 16, under the tutorage of Rev. E. Barker, the veteran Canadian teacher, at that time Principal of Bengough's Shorthand Institute, Toronto. Putting his whole heart into the work, he was soon recognized as one of the brightest pupils, and justified this estimate of his ability by carrying off a valuable prize put up for competition amongst the students and ex-students of the Institute. Shortly after the completion of his school course he became stenographer for Messrs. Robinson, O'Brien & Gibson, barristers, of Toronto. He remained with that firm only about six months, when he was appointed to the position in the department of Crown Lands which he still holds.

Although employed in Toronto, Mr. Williamson's home is in Brampton, about 25 miles from his place of business, and he travels to and from the office morning and evening. The photo presented in this number shows a section of his library, the principal department of which is Dickensiana, or literature relating to the life and writings of Charles Dickens. This has been a hobby with him for the past few years, no effort being spared to make the collection as complete as possible. Mr. Williamson has strong literary proclivities and does considerable newspaper and other work in his spare moments. Being fearless and outspoken in his writings, he is at present figuring as defendant in a $5,000. libel suit, which however is not likely to go to trial. He has always taken a very active interest in shorthand matters, and is Canadian representative of J. Herbert Ford's publications,—*The Reporter's Journal* and *The Shorthand Magazine*, and sole American agent for the Pitmanite (Phonographic Bulletin) of Belfast, Ireland.

STENOGRAPHY IN THE ONTARIO CIVIL SERVICE.

E. S. WILLIAMSON, TORONTO.

IT seems to be a popular impression that positions under government, in any capacity, are sinecures, and that civil servants the world over are enjoying snaps. This may be so under some governments, but certainly in the civil service of the great Province of Ontario sinecures are few and far between. The employees of the Mowat Administration—which has held office continuously for more than a quarter of a century—are appointed because of their fitness for the offices to be filled, and under no circumstances are political considerations allowed to outweigh those of the public interest. The stenographers in the service are no exception to this rule and earn every dollar of their salaries (ranging from $800 to $1200) by good faithful work.

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E. S. WILLIAMSON.

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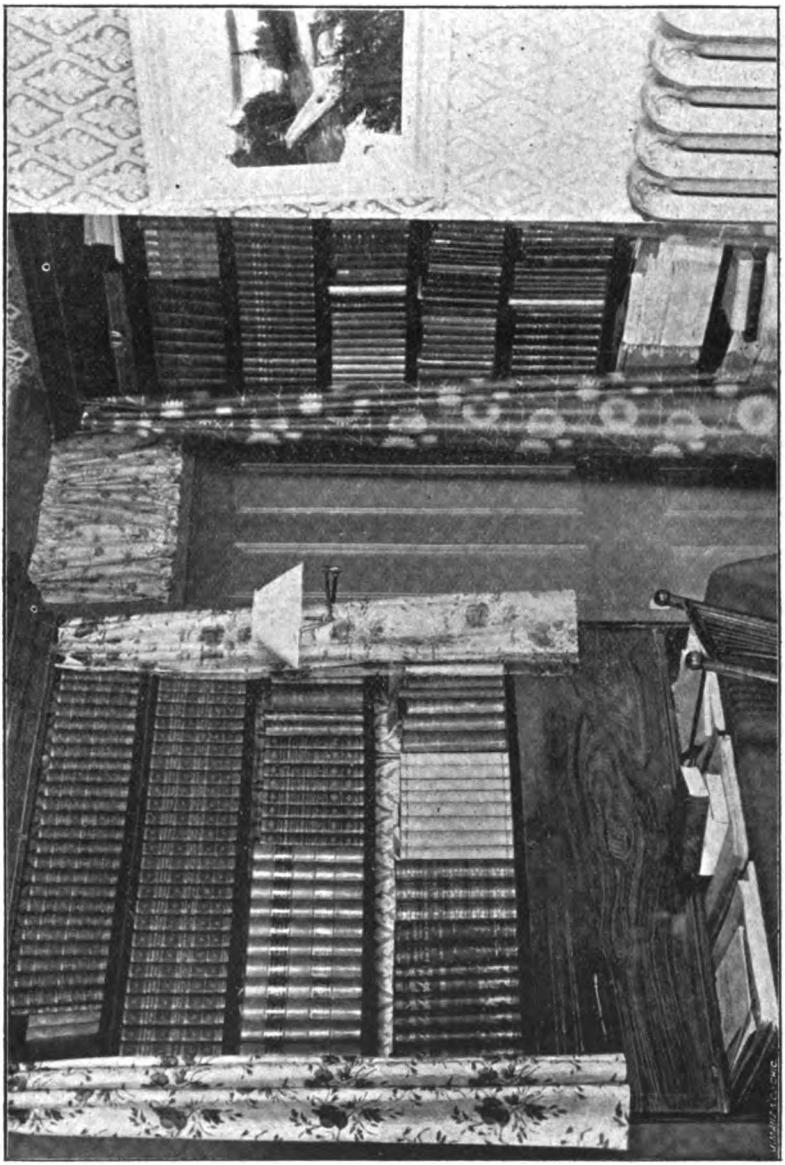

LIBRARY OF E. S. WILLIAMSON.

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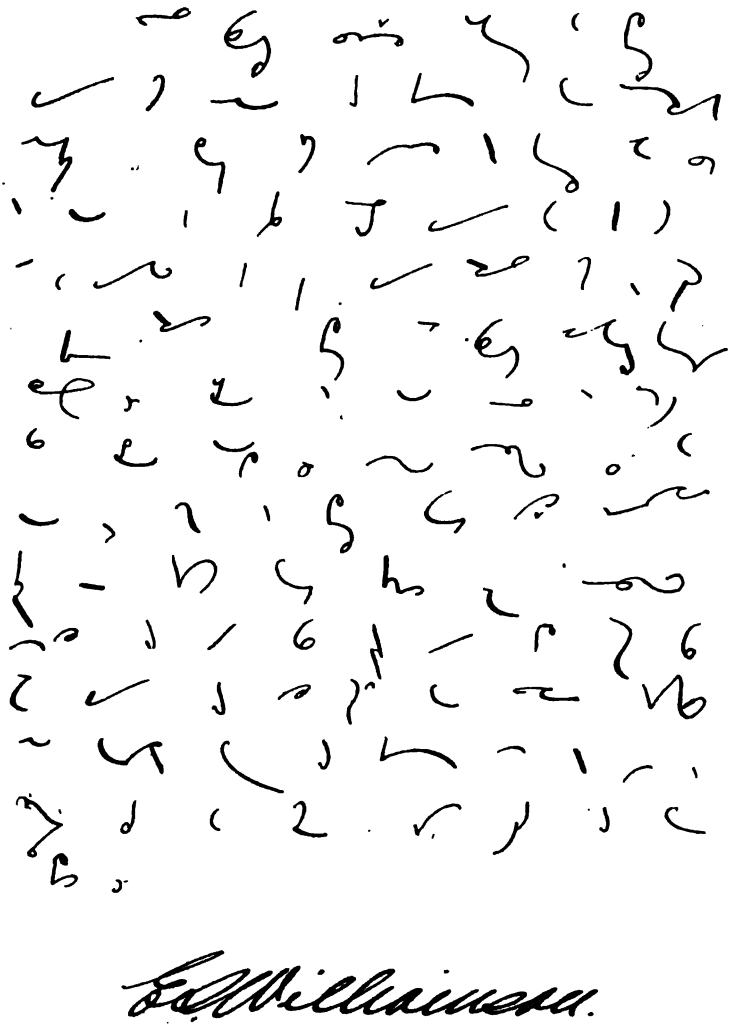

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Before referring to the stenographic work of the department to which I have the honor to be attached, I may be permitted to say a word regarding the private secretaries of the Cabinet Ministers. Of these Mr. S. T. Bastedo, who for over fourteen years has been secretary to Sir Oliver Mowat, Premier and Attorney General, comes first in order of seniority. There has been talk recently of Mr. Bastedo's appointment to some other position, as he is a sufferer from writer's cramp. Should such a transfer be made, the filling of Mr. Bastedo's present place will be no easy matter, as he is an ideal private secretary in every respect and enjoys the confidence of his distinguished chief and of the Administration to an exceptional degree. Mr. Frank Yeigh, secretary to Hon. A. S. Hardy, Commissioner of Crown Lands, is well known in shorthand circles. As assistant editor of the old Canadian magazine—*The Cosmopolitan*, he did excellent service for the profession. Mr. Yeigh has marked literary ability, and is a frequent contributor to some of the best magazines. His book on "Ontario's Parliament Buildings" has been widely read and most favorably reviewed. Mr. M. Wilson, who was for many years Secretary to the late Hon. C F. Fraser, is retained in his old position by Hon. Wm. Harty, Mr. Fraser's successor to the portfolio of Public Works. Mr. J. I. McIntosh, Secretary to Hon. J. M. Gibson, Provincial Secretary; L. V. Percival, Secretary to Hon. R. Harcourt, Provincial Treasurer; H. R. Alley, Secretary to Hon. G. W. Ross, Minister of Education, and W. B. Varley, Secretary to Hon. John Dryden, Minister of Agriculture, are all first-class officials, each possessing special qualifications for the position he occupies.

There are not so many stenographers in the Ontario civil service as one would expect to find employed by a government which administers the affai s of a territory cantaining an area of more than one hundred and twenty-seven million acres. Leaving out of the count the Ministers' secretaries, they could probably be numbered on the fingers of both hands The truth is that the Government of Ontario, although Liberal both in name and in fact, still retains some of the old conservative methods of transacting business. A large percentage of the official correspondence, which could of course be much more expeditiously handled by dictation, is drafted out in pencil by the chiefs of branches and then handed to clerks to type, or, in some cases, to write by hand. During the last few years considerable advance has been made in the direction of displacing these old time methods, and by slow degrees they may be expected to disappear.

It may be mentioned that no official report is made of the debates in the Ontario Legislative Assembly, and no record is kept beyond such as is furnished to the newspapers by the press staff. When a verbatim report is desired of an important speech, it is usually made by one of the private secretaries or Departmental stenographers. In this way the Province is saved the expense of treasuring up for the benefit (?) of posterity a great quantity of utterly useless verbiage.

There is really little to be said, except in a general way, concerning the work of the Department of Crown Lands. This Department is charged with the administration of the interests of the Crown in the public domain —its lands, timber and minerals, and as a very large part of the Province is

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still undisposed of and under the control of the Crown, some idea may be formed of the important duties which the Department of Crown Lands performs. It is divided into 8 branches, with a total staff of sixty-seven. Yet at the time of my appointment, in 1889, the Minister's secretary, Mr. Yeigh, was the only other stenographer in the Department, since then the number has increased to five.

Instead of doing as Mr. Strachan requested, viz: contributing an article on my own work in the department, I have wandered over a wider field and have put on paper, no doubt, matter of little interest to many readers. But there are no features of amanuensis work in a Government department, at any rate in Ontario, which call for special mention. It consists mainly of correspondence, reports to the Executive Council, the preparation of a variety of memoranda, and other details of routine work properly pertaining to a stenographer's duties, with which, I presume, all readers of THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER are familiar.

WESTERN PENMEN'S ASSOCIATION MEETING,

Lincoln, Neb. December 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30.

SHORTHAND PROGRAMME.

Methods of Teaching in Schools and Colleges—By Arthur J. Barnes, St. Louis, Mo.

Shorthand in Public Schools—By Julia M. Fay, Lincoln, Neb.

Shorthand as a Science—Theory—By Dan Brown, Lincoln, Neb.

Shorthand as an Art—Practice—By Myron E. Wheeler, Lincoln, Neb.

Speed in Shorthand, with Exhibition—By Isaac S. Dement, Chicago.

Typewriting Correspondence—By Miss J. D. Hess, St. Paul, Minn.

Typewriting—How Best Taught—By H. W. Lowe, Omaha, Neb.

Speed in Typewriting, with Exhibition—By A. N. Hopkins, Omaha, Neb.

Exhibition of Typewriting Machines and Supplies.

Each of the above subjects will be fully discussed.

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THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER

PUBLISHED BY

THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER COMPANY.

C. H. RUSH, Pres. and Mgr. ANNA RUSH, Sec'y.

$1.00 PER YEAR. MONTHLY. SINGLE COPY, 10 CTS

153-53rd Street, Chicago, Illinois, U. S. A.

Make all remittances payable to THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER CO. Make remittances by Chicago Draft, Post Office or Express Money Orders, or Registered Letters. Remittances sent in any other manner are at the risk of the sender.

We wish all our readers a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

We told you to watch for our Christmas number. It is here. What do you think of it?

This number finishes the fifth year of the NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER. We hardly know what to say of ourselves lest we might be accused of boasting. But the magazine is in a better condition to-day, in spite of the two years depression which has threatened the existence of every publication of this character, than it ever has been before. It is not and never has been what we would like to have it, but we are willing to venture the assertion that in the five volumes of THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER now completed, there is gathered more general information upon subjects relating to shorthand than in any other equal number of publications. We do not say this in disparagement of any other magazine or works. But the facts will bear us out. Take this issue as an example. Where and when was a single copy of a similar periodical issued containing so much valuable matter contributed by such an array of talent? We believe that all progressive stenographers will say that there is one dollars worth in this issue alone. Our policy has been conservative and unobtrusive. We do not claim that the thought and action of the shorthand profession is under the control of THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER. We have endeavored to be consistent; to avoid controversy and quibbling with our contemporaries. We have tried to treat all with the consideration which they deserve and we have reason to believe that we have the ill will of none. To our young friend who started a publication a few months ago and said in his third or fourth issue that THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER would probably soon be a thing of the past we simply say look at our present

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number and see how your predictions are being fulfilled. No, THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER is established. It is here to stay and while we do not wish any of our younger contemporaries the hard struggles that we have had, we certainly hope they may all live to grow as strong and influential as THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER or even more so. We have been especially fortunate and especially gratified to number among our contributors those who stand at the head of the profession. Look at the names of the contributors for this issue for proof of our statement. The result of this has been to cause THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER to be quoted more often during the past year than any other shorthand publication in the world. This is a broad statement but true to the letter and one in which we take pride in making. We claim no credit for this. It is due to our friends who have stood by us so nobly and furnished us with contributions worth reprinting in other publications. Our policy in the future will be a continuance of that of the past. We shall endeavor to merit the support of every progressive reporter, amanuensis, teacher and student of shorthand in the land and we sincerely trust that not a single one of the hundreds whose subscriptions expire with this issue will fail to renew for 1895.

In the above paragraph, we have said nothing of our advertising friends and it would be manifestly unfair for us to overlook them in speaking of the success of the magazine, for without them, it must have been a failure. We have reached a point, it is true, where some advertisers have felt that they can no longer afford not to be represented in our columns, although not expecting any great direct results therefrom. But the time was when advertisers patronized the magazine more to help build it up than for the results they expected to obtain. To those we are duly grateful. We have reached the stage now where the patronage of any one or two concerns cuts but little figure, although our columns are open to all legitimate advertisers having goods to place before stenographers and we give to all assurances of fair treatment from our hands. To the advertiser, as well as to the subscriber, we extend the invitation to be with us in 1895.

Don't forget to renew at once.

The program of the shorthand part of the Western Pennmen's meeting at Lincoln, during holiday week, is given elsewhere. We expect to attend this meeting and trust that we may be able to meet our friends from all over the west There are hundreds, yes thousands. who are nearer to Lincoln than we are and we earnestly urge those of

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Nebraska and adjoining states to attend the meeting as it will be one of great pleasure and profit.

January 1st we shall have some bound copies of Volume V ready for distribution. There is no money in these bound volumes at three dollars as we have always been using a binding worth $1.25 or $1.50. We have therefore saved but a few copies for binding this year and only those who order soon can be assured of getting copies. We can still furnish any of the other volumes except Volume I at $3.00. The price of the four volumes, Nos. II, III, IV, and V is $10.00. We shall be able to furnish two complete sets of the five volumes at $15.00 per set. A copy of Volume I can not be had except in the set.

We hope that those whose subscriptions expire with this number will renew immediately. You can't afford to miss the magazine next year nor a single copy of it. If the matter is delayed, it may result as it did in many instances this year, that is, our inability to furnish back numbers when renewals were received. We do not bind ourselves to carry back numbers in stock a single day after the issue goes into the mails.

A word about our album of prominent stenographers. It has been advertised so long that some may think we are never going to publish it. But times were so dull during the whole year and we were so busy that we concluded not to undertake it. However, we have on hand enough subscriptions to warrant us in getting out the book immediately. We therefore announce that it will soon be ready and those who have not yet subscribed should do so at once. No money need be sent with order. Simply send name and address and money may be sent when book is ready for delivery. There will be a very limited edition of this book and it is not our intention to carry it in stock. Those who desire it must subscribe.

Our cover design was drawn by F. A. Keefover of Waterville, Kansas. Mr. Keefover is one of the best young pen artists in the country and will be glad to promptly execute any work in his line at a reasonable figure. The headings and initial letters appearing in this number for the first time were designed by Mr. Brown of Rockland, Maine. The engraving was done by J. Manz & Co, of this city. See their card in advertising columns.

We have to state here that a large number of contributions had to be left over to January and February. No preference was given, but some were received after the entire copy for the issue had been given to the printers. The consequence will be just as good matter for the next two months as this one.

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WORLD'S CONGRESS OF STENOGRAPHERS.

The World's Congress of Stenographers held in Chicago, July, 1893, was the most important gathering of stenographers ever held at any time or place. Every student, teacher, amanuensis, reporter or other person interested in stenography, should have a copy of the report of the proceedings. A complete report has been issued by THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER Co., Chicago. It contains every paper read there, with portrait and sketch of the life of the author of each as well as the discussions on the different papers, resolutions passed, etc. It is safe to say that there is no other publication in existence that contains so much general information on shorthand and typewriting as this report. It is handsomely bound in blue silk cloth, with gold stamped title, and sells in that form for only $1.25. It may be had in paper binding for 75 cents.

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The Typewriter and the Stenographer - - - - H. E. Joel.
Shorthand From the Earliest Times to the Introduction of the Art in England, in 1588 - - - - - N. P. Heffley.
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Success and Failure of Amanuenses - - - J. R. Price.
Practical Stenographers the Champions of Shorthand Integrity C. T. Platt.
Stenographic Journalism - - - - - C. H. Rush.
The Universal Association of Stenographers - J. Gale Needham.

THE NATIONAL STENOGRAPHER Co., Chicago.

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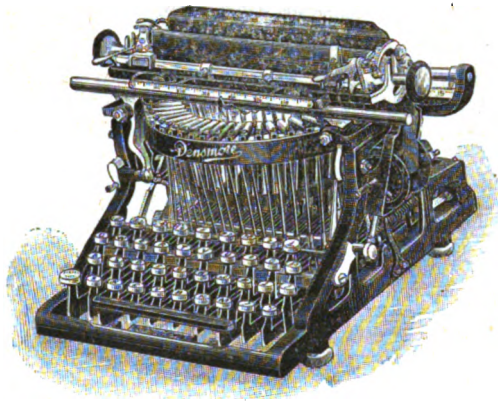
THE

DENSMORE!



"The World's Greatest Typewriter!"

Lightest touch, which means least fatigue.
With fewer parts than others attains more ends.
The material and workmanship insure durability.
Adopted by the United States War Department.

Free: Descriptive Pamphlet containing testimonials from leading concerns.

Densmore Typewriter Co., 202 Broadway, New York.

Chicago Office, 156 Adams Street.

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Roll Top Century Typewriter Cabinet.

No. 6.
Oak, 60 inches high; 38 inches wide, 22 inches deep, 8x20 in. Beveled French Plate. A fine Cabinet for house or office use.

SOMETHING NEW

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The Century Typewriter Cabinet.

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These Cabinets are made in several different patterns and sizes, and each one is made to take in any Typewriter made. They are Patented and made only by

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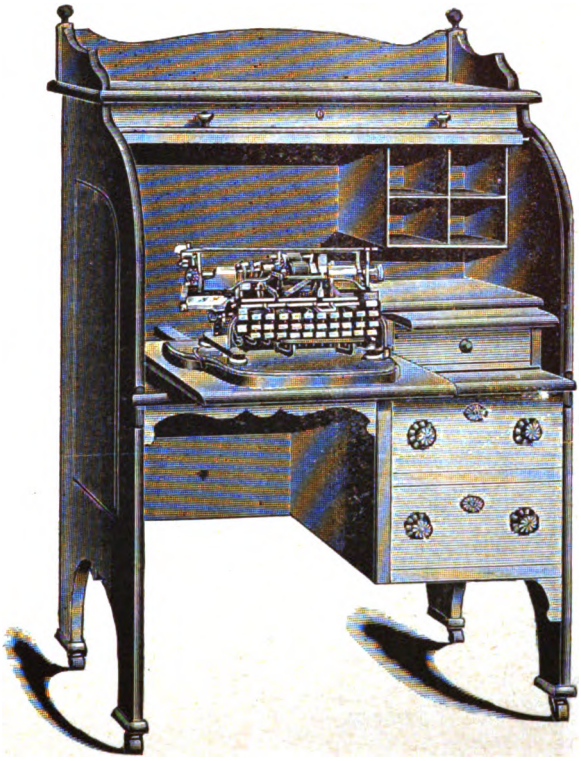

No. 8.
Oak (open). Showing Machine drawn out ready for use. This is the best medium-priced, Roll Top Cabinet on the market. Finished back and first-class Cabinet in every respect.

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Day's Complete Shorthand Manual.

COLUMBIAN REVISION. 16th Edition.

A full revision to date, and **THE VERY BEST SHORTHAND BOOK** EVER YET PUBLISHED.

Is **used** at **hundreds** of commercial schools. Will be used at thousands more.

Is Only $1.50 at Retail.

And, bookseller or teacher, when you get a call for it (don't order it until then), remember it is published by

THE BURROWS BROS. COMPANY,
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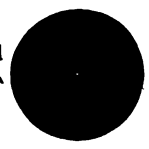

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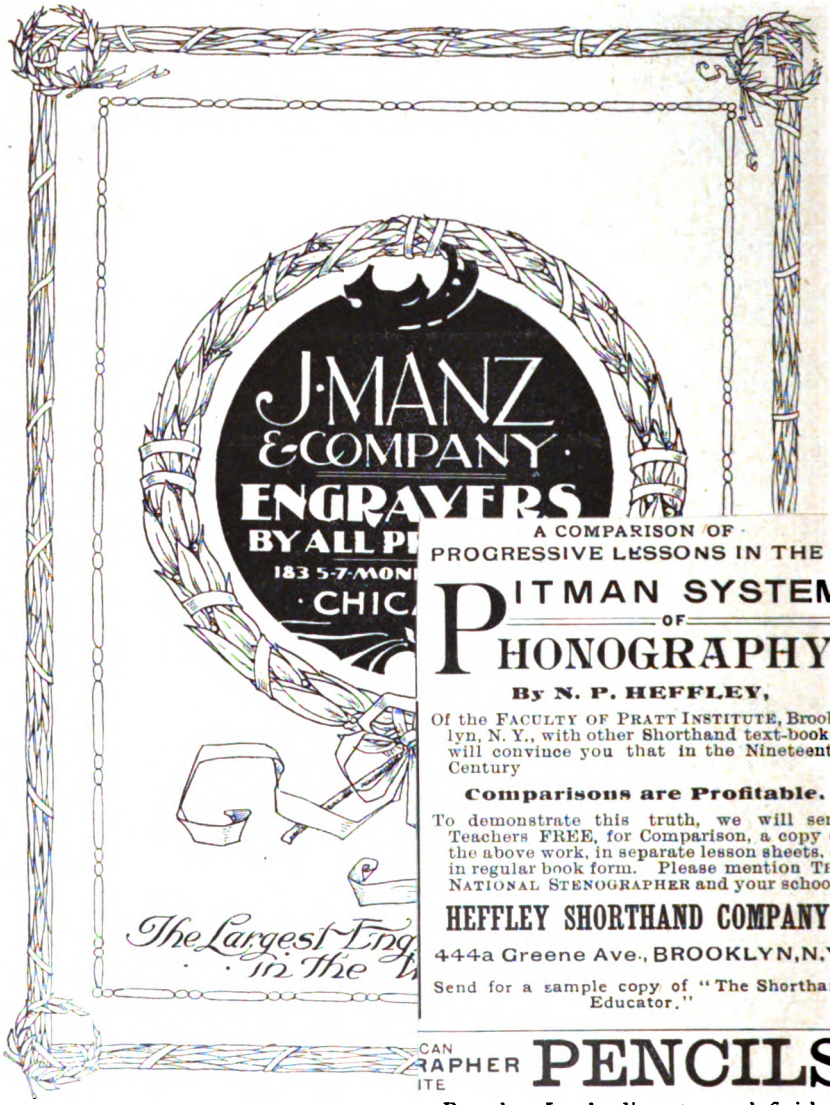

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